Saturday, August 1, 2015

65p

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Great Euro night



Four pages of Saints v Vitesse photos



INSIDE



Dell legend Paine writes for you - P3



Riley: Why I came back to Bash - P14



Book set to boost Andy pages 26/27

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

DAILY ECHO Saturday, August 1, 2015

Saints can dare to dream of a Europa League adventure



I'VE lost count of the amount of times I've described a Saints match as being the most important game of the last six years.

Genuinely, there have been at least

Games where Saints have faced a challenge that have defined our progression under the Liebherrs.

They've been games where we've either faced challenging opposition or the game would propel us up further up the league.

Thursday's game against Vitesse was one such game.

It was probably, yet again, the most important game in years.

The town centre was awash with yellow and black as Vitesse fans mingled, Yates in particular being absolutely mobbed by Dutch fans.

It was fabulously entertaining stuff and made all the better by the fact you actually felt a real sense of pride about it all.

European football fans in your city. Wonderful stuff!

Football is often unfairly labelled sometimes as being a thuggish sport. The behaviour of fans often repre-

sent a city as whole and town centres often find themselves full of fans singing songs and drinking beer.

It can be off-putting for the non-football loving public.

Thursday's game was different. The Vitesse fans were attracting attention from that non-football loving public as they took photos outside the Bargate and set off the occasional smoke bomb outside Yates - and it wasn't the usual turned up noses.

People seemed to be genuinely interested that people from another country were flocking to little old Southampton.

On the pitch, Saints faced a top Dutch side.

Win and you can genuinely start to believe; lose or draw and the armchair critics would come out in their "we're not good enough",

0 off Special Offer



Vitesse fans brought colour to Southampton on a Thursday in pre season

"false dawn" etc, etc.

A 3-0 win was probably beyond our wildest expectations. It gives us a huge platform for next week and a massive opportunity to progress.

You can only wonder what the fans who felt the Europa competition was a waste of time felt?

As St Mary's rocked to a full house, in pre-season and on a Thursday?

How the families with kids felt seeing their home town team win against foreign opposition felt?

The impact is immense.

Don't let anyone tell you other-

What does Thursday's result bring

Well, for one it puts Saints on the map in terms of player activity.

For any player waiting on Saints' progression in Europe before considering a move to the south coast, a 3-0 win may show Southampton as being a much more attractive one.

The end of this transfer window, and the start of the next one, should

prove fascinating viewing.

The 3-0 win also provided a few more light hearted moments of note. It was our first win in Europe in 34 years.

Ronald Koeman's side has not lost to a Dutch team in a either friendly or competitive match.

Graziano Pelle has scored against

every Dutch team we've played.

No Dutch team has scored against us this season, and Saints have scored 19 goals against four Dutch

Football is an adventure, the Europa League is an adventure, just as every day under the Liebherrs has been an adventure.

If you don't get excited by European fans congregating in the precinct, then why do you bother with football?

Every Saints fan should be excited at Southampton in the Europa League.

Football is an adventure. Enjoy the journey. Up the Saints!

Pugh's set to fight for his place

MARC Pugh insists the influx of attacking options at vowed to have the last laugh over his naysayers.

Pugh, the club's longestserving player, has racked up more than 40 league appearances in each of his e seasons in red and black.

Since manager Eddie Howe returned to Cherries in October 2012, the former Hereford and Shrewsbury wideman has seen off contenders such as Ryan Fraser, Mohamed Coulibaly and Junior Stanislas to retain his place.

Howe has again upped the ante by recruiting Ghana international Christian Atsu on a season-long loan as well as drafting in frontrunner Joshua King but the 28-year-old reckons his lessons from football's school of hard knocks can aid his bid to keep the shirt.

Pugh said: "I hope I have proved my worth to the club.

"Going back to when I was younger, I had to deal with a lot of setbacks. People were very quick to tell me I was not good enough but experiences like that make you grow as a person.

"It will not be easy because

we have some very talented footballers but I was delighted with my input last season. I played 40-odd games like I did in the previous four seasons and I don't see why I can't do that



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Paine's World

The Saints legend's

EXCLUSIVE

column on all things football



Pre-season just long, irrelevant phoney war

The troops are gathered.

The "uniforms" are modelled and on display All the equipment has been replenished. The world waits expectantly for battle to commence. And then, we wait.

Nothing of note happens, although bellicose speeches are made and combat-like exercises are carried out, sometimes even in front of large crowds anticipating coming victories or tremoring at the prospect of a campaign of defeat.

In 1939, Churchill spoke of "The Phoney War". Hostilities had been declared. The opposing forces were prepared. And they waited. And waited. And it was some time before a shot was fired in anger.

Some of us loathe pre-season. Of course, our beloved clubs are not preparing for anything as important as a clash of civilizations or a matter of life and death. But this time of anticipation torments us every year.

I don't decry the "off-season", that period immediately following the last league game or, for the favoured few, the play-offs or the Cup Final. No, the off-season is a well-earned and timely break. As fans, that is the time when we can relish the successes or mourn the missed opportunities or simply be relieved that our miseries are over, for now. And we can enjoy those summer's days and pretend for a while to care about tennis and golf. No. I am talking about pre-season. That's the devil's invention.

That's when the manager and staff return to media availability and the fans' attention is once again riveted, and speculation is rife. We are going to sign this player, or that player, or our manager is finally going to give a first-team chance to this young prospect, the next great thing.

Why does our club have no ambition? Well that player never really loved our club, did he? But who will we replace him with?

And won't our stingy owner or chairman or board finally loosen those proverbial purse-strings? Everyone else is spending, but our operation is still run on a shoe string. But then maybe this is the year that those big clubs will finally pay the price for flouting the fundamentals of financial fair play, and sanity will return to football governance. But did you read who THEY are signing? And think what parachute payments will do for THAT squad?

Maybe this new manager of ours will turn things around. Or, I'm glad we are sticking with a steady hand. Or, why were we afraid to make the changes that needed to be made? This is our year! Or, no we're doomed. Or, please not another year of that same old dross

It's the same every year, in one form or another, whichever side you support. Most of the rumoured comings or goings are fan tasies, trolling, false hopes or fears. We are fed them to keep our interest peaked, or we



Ipswich Town manager Mick McCarthy.

ourselves do the feeding to be amused by the inevitable over-reactions of our audience at the pub or on our chosen fanzine. We Want Football! And there isn't any. Not really.

The media yearn for tit-bits of information, or even misinformation will do, with which to beguile the action-starved fans who yearn in turn.

And there are the pre-season friendlies, selected to fill coffers when the opponents are far too good or to feed confidence when they are far too weak.

Admittedly, teams do use pre-season friendlies to try out new tactics, but that's

really just to show a willingness to do so, because we know in our hearts that the style of play reflects the deep-rooted character and culture of our club and will return to type once those shots really are fired in anger.

And yes, friendlies are to entertain, although such fare is rarely entertaining, what with mass substitutions and squads "gelling", whatever that means, and players anxious above all to avoid injuries which could end their season before it starts.

As a predictor of anything, pre-season is a non-starter With the transfer window ex-

tending beyond the first league games, even the squads are not set. And the comparative strengths of promoted and relegated teams and even returning but much changed squads are impossible to gauge.

Mick McCarthy of Ipswich, for one, disparages the meaningfulness of pre-season: "I've been in enough pre-season games where you win all the games, everybody thinks you're great and then you lose the first game. You lose them all and everybody thinks you's sould be sacked before the season starts, and then you have a great run."

So yes, it is a phoney war.

DAILY ECHO Saturday, August 1, 2015



PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

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IND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and iudgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be - clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the

competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5.000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 46 weeks, when standing at £50,000, the nearest miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out and the jackpot will remain at £50,000 each week until there is a jackpot winner, then the jackpot starts again at £5,000, with the nearest miss prize remaining at £1,000 each week.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



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Thursday 9am 6 August, 2015 Names of inners will be published on Saturday. 8 August 9 August

JACKPOT WINNER NO WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr S Weakley, Southampton, Hants who wins the nearest miss prize of £1,000

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of ${\mathfrak L}15$

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- L Drake, Southampton, Hants
- D Dumper, Eastleigh, Hants J Franklin, Southampton, Hants
- S Goddard, Southampton, Hants
- L Gregory, Southampton, Hants
- R Hampton, Southampton, Hants
- D Lampard, Fastleigh, Hants W McDonald, Southampton, Hants
- L Northover, Lymington, Hants R Ramsden, Southampton, Hants
- M Reid, Southampton, Hants J Reynolds, Southampton, Hants
- J Rushby, Southampton, Hants
- M Smith, Eastleigh, Hants
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4. Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed '8. Co.' Stamps will not be accepted in payment. 54. A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week, 6.The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORESPONDENICE CAN EDE ENTERED INTO. 7. Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competitions. Abdrasse safties to FTE, Newspaper House, Fest Lane, Southampton, SO16 Jul' na sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. Test Laine, Southampton, \$0.16 9.Xi in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted 9.Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. No.Do not send cash in the post. II.Winners will be required to participate in publicity. 12. Photocopies not accepted. 13. For rules go to ired to participate in publicity. 12. Photocopies not accepted. 13. For rules go to yecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy. 14. If you pay by cheque your prize money will be paid to you once cheque has cleared





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SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Stek is aiming to get back on track

Keeper thrilled to have chance to shine at Saints

Continued from front page

Stekelenburg made a crucial save in Thursday's 3-0 Europa League win against Vitesse, *writes Gordon Simpson*.

With the score at 2-0, he kept out Milot Rashica one-on-one to deny the Arnhem-based side what could have been a vital away goal in the third qualifying round tie. After a miserable time since mov-

After a miserable time since moving to Craven Cottage in 2013, the 32-year-old – who has been capped 54 times by his country and played in the 2010 World Cup final – is delighted to be at St Mary's.

"I know my level, I know what I can do, but you also need a chance to show it," he said. "I am just happy with this chance here and hopefully I can continue like this."

After establishing himself as a topclass keeper during a long career with Ajax, and then a spell at Roma, Stekelenburg endured a difficult time at Fulham, falling out of favour under Felix Magath.

He then moved to Monaco on loan last season, but played only sparingly, due to the brilliant form of Danijel Subasic.

Despite the lack of playing time, Stekelenburg said: "Monaco was not frustrating - no, it was my escape my Fulham. It was at the end of the transfer window, it was my only way out. I knew the situation when I signed for Monaco.

"The goalkeeper did a fantastic season. I think I played nine games in total, so I knew the situation, but I didn't want to have one more year like that. I wanted to play and I get the chance here."

Stekelenburg has already been impressed by what he has seen from his teammates.

"I think [they can achieve] a lot," he said. "The mentality of this team is really good, if I compare with other teams I have played for.

"This is a very nice time, they work their b****** off for every minute, every second of the game.

"Also in training, they work hard and we want to go forwards and get better. That is a really good thing so hopefully we can get a nice season like last year."

With one clean sheet under his belt, Stekelenburg will hope to keep another next Thursday, when Saints visit Vitesse for the return leg, and



After establishing himself as a top- Maarten Stekelnburg guards his goal during Saints' 3-0 win against Vitesse in the first leg of their Europa League tie.



Maarten Stekelenburg applauds the crowd after keeping a clean sheet in the third qualifying round win over Vitesse.

he is confident they will advance past the Dutch club and into the play-off round.

"I think the result is fantastic," he said. "The first 10, 15 minutes, we didn't control the game.

"After that, we took the initiative, scored a good goal and then a penalty. I think it was a penalty - I couldn't see from my angle, but there was not a lot of protests.

"I think after that we controlled

the game and in the second half we needed to play more forward but we didn't, so they got one big chance again.

"But I am happy with the clean sheet and the result."

Guide to Espanyol

SAINTS complete their preseason schedule with a home friendly against Spanish side Espanyol today.

The teams met for the first time 14 years ago to mark the opening of St Mary's Stadium.

Since then Saints have, of course, dropped down to League One and made it back to the Premier League, while Espanyol have maintained their La Liga status and enjoyed a couple of successful seasons along the way, writes Jason Lewis.

After narrowly avoiding relegation for several campaigns in a row, they finished fifth in the 2004/05 season and qualified for the UFFA Curp.

The Barcelona-based club enjoyed their European adventure, progressing through the group phase before being beaten by Schalke 04 in the round of 32.

In domestic competition, Espanyol picked up silverware in the form of the Copa del Rey, beating Real Zaragoza in the final.

This was the club's fourth Copa del Rey title, the only major competition they have won in their 114 year history.

won in their 114 year history. The club qualified for the UEFA Cup through their Copa del Rey success and matched their most successful ever season in Europe in the 2006/07 competition.

After topping their group with 12 points, Espanyol progressed all the way to the final, beating Benfica and Werder Bremen along the

It was an all Spanish affair in the final as Espanyol faced Sevilla. Espanyol levelled the score in both normal time and extra time but were eventually beaten in the penalty shoot-

Since then Espanyol have been consistently mid-table in La Liga with no major threat of relegation, but at the same time never quite having enough to push for Europe.

From 2009 to 2012 they were managed by Mauricio Pochettino, his only managerial position before becoming the Saints boss in 2013.

Pochettino came in and lifted the club from a relegation scrap in his first season, but was dismissed in November 2012 after taking just nine points from 13 matches

Last season, Espanyol finished tenth in the table, however this summer has seen them lose both goalkeeper Kiko Casilla to Real Madrid and last season's top goalscorer, Sergio Garcia, to Al-Rayyan of Qatar.

Striker Christian Stuani also seems to be leaving the club with a move to Middlesbrough nearing its completion. **DAILY ECHO** Saturday, August 1, 2015





Graziano Pelle has opened the scoring



Sadio Mane battles for possession.



Shane Long in possession



Shane Long is foiled by the keeper



Shane Long, above, and Dusan Tadic, right, celebrate





Saints fans in good spirits



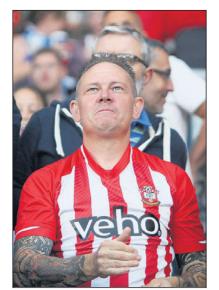
Cedric Soares



Graziano Pelle



Saints' mascots prior to the game.



A Saints fan looks satisfied



Saints fans applaud their team.



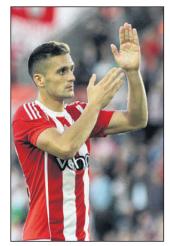
Jordy Clasie shoots at goal



The joy of supporting your team.



Steven Davis tries to cut out a pass



Tadic applauds the fans



Cedric Soares



Jose Fonte makes a pass



More clapping from Tadic, this time before the game

8 Pilmer DAILY ECHO Saturday, August 1, 2015







Saints fans in the summer sunshine



Saints fans at St Mary's





Saints fans pre-match.



Vitesse supporters in the city centre



aints line up before their first European win for 34 years



Vitesse fan in a chicken costume



A great pre-match atmosphere



Vitesse supporters



Flying the flag



Vitesse fans in high spirits ... prior to the game!



Sadio Mane on the ball during Saints' win against Vitesse



Jordie Clasie walks out for his Saints European debut



Fans pleased to see the Echo photographer



A wide range of emotions at St Mary's as Saints defeat Vitesse Arnhem 3-0.



Saints fans





Tadic has just scored



Chairman Ralph Krueger and owner Katharina Liebherr



Selfie time



Saints fans celebrate a goal.

DAILY ECHO 10

Conference National Transfers Aldershot

In: Luke Oliver (Forest Green) Free Dan Walker (Braintree) Free Tom Richards (Fulham) Free Charlie Walker (Luton Town) Free Sean McGinty (Rochdale) Free Jake Gallagher (Welling) Free Matthew Barnes-Homer (Whitehawk) Free Jack Saville (Barnet) Free Jim Stevenson (Luton Town) Free Omar Beckles (AFC Hornchurch) Free Out: Glenn Wilson (Margate) Free Jordan Roberts (Inverness) Free Brett Williams (Stevenage) Free Mark Molesley (Weymouth) Free Released: Jaydon Gibbs, Tristan Plummer, Andre McCollin, Josh Scott, Chris Barker

In: Josh O'Keefe (Kidderminster) Free Michael Rankine (Gateshead) Free Anthony Griffith (Carlisle United) Free Tim Deasy (Northwich Victoria) Free Tim Deasy (Northwich Victoria) Free Out: Kyle Perry (Hednesford) Free Dave Parton (Hednesford) Free Sean Williams (Hinckley United) Free Peter Cavanagh (Southport) Free Steven Gillespie (Warrington Town) Free Released: Greg Wilkinson, Jeff King, Josh Samberg, Rob Gilroy, David Brown, Max

Barrow

In: Andy Haworth (Cheltenham Town) Free Mamadou Fofana (Oxford City) Free David Mellor (Oldham Athletic) Free Neil Ashton (Wrexham) Free Ashley Grirnes (Walsall) Free Steve Williams (Halifax Town) Free Joel Dixon (Sunderland) Free Out: Anthony McMillan (Stalybridge Celtic) Free Andrew Burns (Tamworth) Free Karl Ledsham (Stockport) Free Izak Reid (Telford United) Free Johnny Gorman (Telford United) Free Andy McWilliams (Harrogate Town) Free

Boreham Wood

In: Charlie MacDonald (Barnet) Free In: Charlie MacDonald (Barnet) Free Preston Edwards (Ebbsfieet United) Loan Luke Howell (Dagenham & Redbridge) Free Scott Doe (Dagenham & Redbridge) Free Silly Clifford (Free Agent) Danny Woodards (Free Agent) Out: Ben Herd (Hemel Town) Free Released: Raheem Stirling-Parker, Josh Hill Greg Morgan, Daryl McMahon,

Braintree

In: Michael Cheek (Chelmsford City) Free Will Norris (Cambridge United) Loan Out: Jordan Holdsworth (Brentwood) Free Nick Hamann (Woking) Free Dan Walker (Aldershot) Free

In: Lee Minshull (Newport County) Free Aaron Tunwa (Famborough) Free Bradley Goldberg (Dagenham & Redbridge)

Max Porter (Newport County) Free Sean Francis (Dover) Free Alex Wall (Luton) Free Out: Callum McNaughton (Dartford) Free Jamie Slabber (Hemel Hempstead) Free Damian Scannell (Dulwich Hamlet) Free Seb Brown (Hampton & Richmond) Free Mitchell Pinnock (Maidstone United) Free Released: Danny Waldren, Rob Swaine, A Bailey-Dennis, Sam Long, Paul Agu

Cheltenham Town

In: Aaron Downes (Torquay) Free Danny Wright (Kidderminster) Free Harry Pell (Eastleigh) Free Kyle Storer (Wrexham) Free George McLennan (Reading) Free Amari Morgan-Smith (Oldham Athletic) free Dillon Phillips (Charlton Athletic) Loan Jack Barthram (Swindon Town) Free Billy Waters (Crewe Alexandra) Free Jack Munns (Chariton Athletic) Free Calum Kitscha (Hayes & Yeading) Free
Out: Craig Braham-Barrett (Ebbsfleet) Free
Troy Brown (Exeter City) Free
Matt Taylor (Newport County) Free Andy Haworth (Barrow) Free Trevor Carson (Hartlepool United) Undisclosed Released: Matt Richards, Danny Haynes, Durrell Berry, Matt Gould, Mathieu Manset, Harry Reynolds.

Chester

In: Ian Sharps (Burton Albion) Free Jordan Chapell (Torquay) Free Tom Shaw (Alfreton) Free Ross Hannah (Grimsby Town) Free continued on facing page

Eastleigh in pre season ... Eastleigh in pre season Spitfires warm up

EASTLEIGH conclude their preseason schedule today at the Silverlake Stadium against newly promoted League Two side Barnet.

The Spitfires will kick-off their Vanarama National League campaign next weekend at Southport.

Here The Sports Pink has roundedup manager Richard Hill's side's preseason matches.

Thursday 9 July - Eastleigh 4 Clanfield 85 0 (Lafayette, Odubade, Constable, Evans)

Ross Lafayette scored his first goal in Eastleigh colours at Clanfield 85

The Spitfires' recent signing from Luton Town netted number three as Richard Hill's men eased into pre-season with a 4-0 win in Oxfordshire.

Having hit the bar early on, Yemi Odubade got victory under way against the Hellenic Division One West hosts, tucking away Joe Partington's cross from close range.

Lafayette's neat finish from the left edge of the area was sandwiched between goals from James Constable and Will Evans.

Tuesday 14 July - Eastleigh 0

Partick Thistle 2
Thistle, who had just finished eighth in the Scottish top-flight, had travelled down from Scotland for a closed season

James Constable caused trouble early on, but Steve Lawless slotted home into the far corner on eight minutes.

The Spitfires' best chances were coming from set pieces but they fell behind further on the half hour when David Amoo fired it right on the head of Frederic Frans to knock into the top

Tuesday 21 July Eastleigh 2 Newport County 1 (Odubade, Evans) Eastleigh sprang a surprise by nam-

ing ex-Saint Dan Harding in their starting XI for a 2-1 friendly win over Terry

Butcher's Newport County.
The 31-year-old, who still lives in the Chandler's Ford area, is on the lookout for a club after parting company with Nottingham Forest via a loan spell with Millwall.

He has been training with the Spitfires and did manager Richard Hill a favour this evening by filling in for injured left-back Michael Green

Harding will be affectionately remembered by Saints fans as part of the 2009/10 Johnstone's Paint Trophy-win-

The following season he was voted in the PFA's divisional team of the season as Saints clinched promotion from League One.

It was all Eastleigh for the first nine minutes tonight with Harding and new signings Andy Drury, Josh Payne and Lee Cook all knocking the ball around well, but one incisive move from Newport ended with Lewis Bamford striking the base of goalkeeper Lewis Noice's left-hand post.
But it was Eastleigh who broke the

deadlock on 17 minutes when, not for the first time, the ball was fed out to the blond figure of Harding on the left.

He searched out Cook with a crisp



Andy Drury runs at the Partick Thistle defence



Former Oxford striker Yemi Odubade in action against his one-time employers



Summer signing Lee Cook in possession against Oxford United.

delivery and, although the former

Barnet man was caught off-balance, he

somehow managed to hook the ball into

the path of former Exiles loanee Yemi Odubade to score against his old club.

Will Evans headed in to make it 2-0.

Oxford United 2

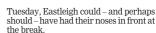
Saturday 25 July - Eastleigh 0

Oxford United 2
Richard Hill admitted Oxford United caused his Eastleigh side problems "right from the start" as the League Two visitors ran out 2-0 friendly win-

Yet although the Us presented the

Spitfires with a far tougher test than

their divisional rivals Newporthad on

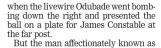


Two quickfire Oxford goals in the last five minutes of the first half ultimately proved Eastleigh's undoing

Feared the worst

But it could have been a different story after the pacy Yemi Odubade – one of four ex-Oxford players in the Spitfires' line-up - had set up two firsthalf chances that fell into the 'harder to miss' category.

Us' supporters in the 1,193 Silverlake crowd must have feared the worst



'Beano', scorer of 106 goals for Oxford – just one short of equalling the club record - let his former employers off the hook by screwing his 36th-minute shot uncharacteristically wide.

Danny Hylton then spurned a gift header at the other end before Odubade burst off the leash again to set up sum-

mer arrival Andy Drury with another inviting delivery, but the former Luton Town midfielder blazed over.

Hill - who played former Saint Dan



during the Scottish club's 2-0 friendly win.



Josh Payne is tackled during Eastleigh's friendly



Ross Lafavette controls the ball during the

Andy Drury on the ball during the 2-0 loss to Oxford United.



WENDY GEE'S NON LEAGUE ROUND-UP STARTS ON PAGE 12

Saturday, August 1, 2015 11

Eastleigh in pre season ... Eastleigh in pre season

for new campaign



Oxford United legend James Constable, above and below, in action against his former club last weekend.





Former Saints full back Dan Harding turned out for Eastleigh against Oxford United last weekend.



James Constable is crowded out during Eastleigh's friendly loss to Oxford United.

Harding at left-back for the whole 90 minutes - said: "We conceded the first from a debatable free-kick against Will (Evans) and then lost our discipline, went a bit ragged and conceded a sec-

"But we were decent first half, Josh Payne put in a couple of good balls and Andy Drury was getting around the pitch well after missing the first bit of pre-season.
"When a team goes two up like Oxford

did, suddenly everyone becomes a good player and it could have been three or four in the end.

'But you need to give our lads some credit for hanging in there and for continuing to do the right things for little or

Tuesday 28 July – Salisbury 1 Eastleigh 1 (Jack Midson) Ellis Bellamy – son of former Wales, Manchester City and Liverpool for-ward, Craig – was among the Eastleigh trialists in Tuesday's 1-1 draw at Salisbury Salisbury.

Watched by a 561 crowd at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium, the Spitfires took the lead midway through the second half through Jack Midson only to lose it again when Sam Roberts Claridge's Steve Sydenhams Wessex new boys with

around 15 minutes to go. Spitfires boss Richard Hill left most of his star names on the bench for the first half and included four trialists in his starting XI along with young guns Lewis Noice, Jack Smith, Tony Lee and Jack Masterton.

Former Bristol Rovers youngster Jack Alexander was given another run-out, along with fellow trialists Bellamy a former Cardiff City under-18 and Vales youth winger/striker, ex-Woking, Braintree and Grimsby left-back Aswad Thomas and Joe Devera, a 28-year-old former Barnet and Swindon Town defender recently released by Portsmouth after two years at Fratton

After a largely uneventful first half, the Spitfires made seven changes for the start of the second with National League heavyweights Joe Partington, Midson, Ben Strevens, Andy Drury, Jai Reason, James Constable and Yemi Odubade all going on.

They made their mark just after the hour when Drury burst forward and played a one-two with Reason before setting up Midson for a tidy finish.

Salisbury levelled with a header by Roberts, who played for Lymington Town last term, and it ended all square despite late efforts from Midson and

Conference National Transfers

Johnny Hunt (Cambridge United) Free Luke George (Southport) Free
Out: Peter Winn (Cleethorpes Town) Free
Sean McConville (Accrington Stanley) Free
Matty Brown (Halifax Town) Free Jamie Menagh (Marine FC) Free Kieran Charnock (Chorley) Free Kingsley James (Halifax Town) Free Gareth Roberts (Stockport) Free Released: Liam Blake, Ibou Touray, Cory Williams, Jon Viscosi

Dover

In: Duane Ofori-Acheampong (Torquay) Free Jamie Grimes (Kidderminster) Free Ricky Miller (Luton Town) Free Nady Diallo (Bath City) Free Out: Nathan Elder (Tonbridge Angels) Free Jake Reid (Maidenhead United) Free Solomon Taiwo (Margate) Free Sean Francis (Bromley) Free Joe O'Cearuill (Stains Town) Free Connor Essam (Leyton Orient) Undisclosed Released: Adam Mekki, Christian Nanetti, Barry Cogan, Lee Hook

Eastleigh

In: Joe Partington (Bournemouth) Free Ross Lafayette (Luton Town) Free Lee Cook (Barnet) Free Andy Drury (Luton Town) Free Josh Payne (Woking) Free Michael Poke (Portsmouth) Loan
Out: Craig McAllister (Sutton United) Free
Harry Pell (Cheltenham Town) Free
Dan Spence (Sutton United) Free Dean Beckwith (Sutton United) Free Stuart Fleetwood (Sutton United) Free Craig Stanley (Lincoln City) Free Released: Deon Burton, Brian Howard

FC Halifax Town

In: Elliott Whitehouse (Notts County) Free Hamza Bencherif (Lincoln City) Free Josh MacDonald (Marske United) Free Matty Brown (Chester) Free Andy Bishop (Wrexham) Free Kingsley James (Chester) Free Jordan Burrow (Lincoln City) Free Sam Walker (Curzon Ashton) Free Danny Maguire (Blyth Spartans) Free Connor Hughes (Hyde United) Free Out: Paul Marshall (Bradford Park) Free Scott Boden (Newport County) Free Adam Smith (Wrexham) Free Matty Pearson (Accrington Stanley) Free Marc Roberts (Barnsley) Free Steve Williams (Barrow) Free Will Hatfield (Guiseley) Free Ross Dyer (Tamworth) Free Lois Maynard (Tranmere Rovers) Free Danny Schofield (Bradford Park) Free Josh Wilson (Evide) Free Released: Jon Worthington, Phil Senior, Jamie

Forest Green

In: Aaron O'Connor (Newport County) Free Delano Sam-Yorke (Lincoln City) Free Keanu Marsh-Brown (Barnet) Free Darren Jones (Newport County) Free Jon Maxted (Hartlepool United) Free Out: Sam Russell (Gateshead) Free James Marwood (Gateshead) Free Luke Oliver (Aldershot) Free Anthony Barry (Accrington Stanley) Free Chris Stokes (Coventry City) Free James Norwood (Tranmere Rovers) Free Released: Kieron Forbes

Josh Gillies (Carlisle United) Free Danny Johnson (Cardiff City) Free Jimmy Phillips (Burton Albion) Free James Marwood (Forest Green) Free Sam Russell (Forest Green) Free Nathan Buddle (Carlisle United) Free Simon Ramsden (Motherwell) Free Ryan Bowman (Torquay) Undisclosed River Allen (Plymouth Argyle) Free Patrick McLaughlin (Grimsby Town) Free Out: Michael Rankine (Altrincham) Free Tom Allan (Alfreton) Free Phil Turnbull (Darlington 1883) Free Adam Bartlett (Hartlepool United) Free Alex Rodman (Newport County) Free Ryan Wilson (Alfreton) Free Andrai Jones (Southport) Free Jake Orrell (Chesterfield) Undisclosed Carl Finnigan (Township Rollers) Free Released: Valentin Gjokaj Alex Baird, Kevin Sainte-Luce, Jonathan O'Donnell, John Oster, Dillon Morse

continued on page 26

12 DAILY ECHO Saturday, August 1, 2015

Non league FOOTBALL





Jackson takes over from Keating as head coach of Folland Sports

IT'S all change at Folland Sports with just days to go before the start of the new Sydenhams Premier Division season.

The Planemakers this week parted company with manager Jay Keating after less than three months and promoted Kevin Jackson to the role of head coach.

Keating became the second local non-League boss in a matter of days to have lost his job before so much as taking a league game in charge.

Southern League outfit Bashley were the first to drop a managerial bombshell, announcing the departure of ex-Chelsea defender David Stride after just 40 days and welcoming Steve Riley, left, back into the fold.

Poole-based Keating lasted slightly longer, having been appointed in early May following the departure of Danny Bowers and Dave Lewis from Follands Park.

Keating, 40, left his job in joint charge of Dorchester Town's reserves to join the Planemakers and pledged to give young players a platform to parade their skills in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

But there was growing concern in the Planemakers' camp that his signings were too young and inexperienced to handle the rough and tumble of the Wessex League.

Follands secretary Adrian Harris

said: "Jay is very enthusiastic and we thank him for all the effort he made.

"But, after eight weeks (of pre-season), we didn't feel such a very, very young team was right for the club.

"When it came to the thick of the Wessex League, we felt these young lads would struggle and and we had to make changes before it was too late rather than six games into the season.

"We feared these boys would have taken a few hidings and we didn't want them to."

Jackson, who is a vastly experienced football man, joined Follands Sports around a month ago at the invitation of one of Keating's coaches Marc Scrimaglia, who knew him from

AFC Bournemouth

A qualified Army referee, Jackson coached and scouted at Swindon Town and continued his football education in the USA with the Vogelsinger Soccer Academy.

He became a qualified sports therapist and UEFA-Licence coach and worked with AFC Bournemouth's school of excellence.

Eighteen months later, he linked up with Malcolm Elias at Southampton before ill health forced him out of the game for two years.

game for two years.

More recently Jackson has held youth/reserve coaching positions in non-League with Christchurch, Poole Town and Hamworthy United.

Sacked manager in 'shock'

JAY Keating feels he wasted three months of his life managing Folland Sports.

Believing he had done all the club had asked of him, the enthusiastic 40-year-old from Poole was excited about launching a new-look young side into the Sydenhams Premier Division.

But with the season less than a fortnight away, the Planemakers dropped a bombshell prior to Tuesday's friendly against Merley Cobham Sports, telling Keating his services were no longer required.

With long-serving manager Danny Bowers retiring through ill health midway through last season and his assistant Dave Lewis taking a year's sabbatical, Follands announced in early May that Keating, formerly joint reserve team boss at Dorchester Town, would be leading them into a new era.

They said at the time: "Jay boasts many strengths as a manager, not least his ability to develop young players.

"We have interviewed so many potential managers but, ultimately, Jay stood out as the most refreshing candidate and gives us the best platform moving forwards."

Three months down the line, the Planemakers are of the opinion that the side Keating built was too young to hack it in the Wessex Premier. They had played just one pre-season friendly under Keating's charge – a 1-1 draw against a Weymouth XI.

Admitting his sacking was a "massive shock", Keating said: "I drove over with my dad and some players and got out of the car to be told the club had lost confidence in me.

"We'd had one trial game and one friendly which we drew against a Weymouth side that had five players with Conference South experience.

"It's worse than what happened at Bashley (where Dave Stride was



Former Follands boss Jay Keating

sacked after 40 days) because I got one game in charge – and we didn't even lose it!

"Follands didn't want an older side that would cost money and they wanted a better disciplinary record.

"I had a good young side coming together, there was no swearing and we were trying to create a family environment.

"There's zero budget at Follands

and one of the reasons I was picked was my ability to develop young players, but now they're saying they want experienced Wessex players.

experienced Wessex players.
"I've wasted three months of my life doing what they asked me to do and now I've been let go for not doing the opposite of what they wanted!"

Experienced football man Kevin Jackson has taken over as head coach and has already begun the rebuilding process. In the wake of Keating's dismissal, the Planemakers were thumped 6-0 by Dorset Premier outfit Merley.

Keating said: "Some of the players refused to play, but I told them they should.

"But lads like Lee Phibbs, Scott Walters and David Jerrard, who were the spine of the side, were on the bench."

Town will be a force

AMESBURY Town should again be a force to be reckoned with in the Sydenhams League Division One.

Manager Gareth Horner has retained almost the entire squad that secured the club's highest ever finish of fourth last term – plus he has recruited a couple of new signings.

The likes of Tyler
Brockway, Danny Finnigan,
Craig Wheeler and Connor
Palmer will again represent
the Blues in 2015/16. The only
player yet to re-sign is striker
Eddie Perrett who is still
having trials with Steve
Claridge's Salisbury.

Experienced former Salisbury and Gosport defender Josh Thomhas climbed aboard at Bonnymead Park along with Max Donohue from Laverstock & Ford.

With Horner on holiday, assistant boss Rob Scott took charge as Amesbury pulled off a notable 2-0 friendly win over Southern League outfit Bashley.

Danny Finnigan settled the issue with two goals in the last 10 minutes.

● RIVER Allen, a Gosport Borough loanee last season, will be plying his trade at the other end of the country this term. Having been released by his home town club Plymouth Argyle, the 19-year-old midfielder has joined Eastleigh's League rivals Gateshead on a one-year deal after a trial. Allen travelled north on the recommendation of the Heed's assistant manager Gary Owers, who worked at Argyle between 2012-14.

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Non league FOOTBALL





Stags manager happy to see old boss back at Bash

AFC TOTTON boss Steve Hollick has welcomed Steve Riley's return to the Bashley helm.

Having worked with Riley at both clubs, it wasn't the easiest of situations for the former goalkeeper coach to step into Riley's shoes when he left the Testwood Stadium by mutual consent in March

After taking some time out from football, Riley has retraced his steps to Bashley where he spent seven successful years prior to joining Totton in the

summer of 2012.

It looked for all the world that Bash would lose their Southern League status last season when they wound up rock bottom of Division One South & West with just eight points to their name.

But with Sholing and Clevedon Town both dropping out of the league, the Foresters were granted a reprieve and will line up again in the same division as Totton and Wimborne Town – plus newly-promoted Winchester City.

Welcoming the good news from his old

club, Hollick, left, said: "Riles is back! It's good for Bashley and it's good for us because it adds a bit of spice to the local derby.

"Hopefully he will get some decent players in and put a good side together. They couldn't have another season like the last one. It'll be interesting to see who Riles signs. Most of his old players are either with Poole, us or Wimborne and they're pretty much all on contract

who Riles signs. Most of his old players are either with Poole, us or Wimborne and they're pretty much all on contract. "It won't be easy, but he will get a decent side together."

Enthusiasm returns as offer pulls Riley back to old team

AFTER managing AFC Totton through the most turbulent time in their recent history, Steve Riley had decided to take time out from football when his reign of nearly three years ended by mutual consent in March.

consent in March.

But the "pull" of rejoining his old club Bashley proved too strong and he is relishing the challenge of getting the Foresters back on their feet and trying to recreate the 2006/07 glory days when he led them to the Southern South & West title.

The former Navy PTI, who now coaches in schools, said: "It's all happened so quickly."

"We'd broken up for the summer holidays and I was enjoying myself just relaxing and spending a bit of time with the family.

"But then the chance came up to go back and manage Bashley again and the pull was too great.

"There's been a bit of an overhaul behind the scenes and the new board have worked hard to get things moving in the right direction to take the club forward.

"My heart's always been with Bashley with the amount of time I was there as a player and manager and my enthusiasm has been rekindled."

It was only in mid-June that Bashley's old board had appointed Lymington-based former Chelsea defender Dave Stride as team manager.

But when the new regime – headed by newly-elected chairman Tim Allan – came in, they parted company with Stride, citing "a run of poor pre-season results and lack of player signings".

It has left Riley with the tricky task of building a competitive unit with the new South & West season now just seven days away.

Riley, who was first approached at the back end of last week, admitted: "I didn't know what to make of it at first, but I had a little think, had a chat with the good lady wife and decided to get back on board.

"It's going to be tough because of the timing of it, but I met so many good people down there when I was managing Bashley before and there are still a lot of good people there.

"It's just the history of the club, get-



Steve Riley

ting them promoted as we did, and the record we achieved that season was unbelievable.

"There have always been good memories for me at Bash. Thinking back to those good times and the crowds we were getting brings a smile to your face.

"Football's changing and it's getting harder to attract people in, but I believe that a lot of it is personality-driven and if the atmosphere is good, that's half the battle.

"Bashley is a friendly club and my first remit is to keep them in the South & West. "If we can achieve over and above

that, it's a win-win.
"We'll work hard to try to build the best squad the club is capable of getting.

ting.
"If there are any players out there who are after a club, tell them to get in touch with me."

Positives for Totton

AFC TOTTON surged back from behind to win 4-1 at Bemerton Heath Harlequins in their penultimate preseason game on Tuesday.

The Stags, who were without new signing Marc Diaper due to a calf injury, fell behind on 13 minutes after Mark Lilley had had an early penalty shout turned down.

It took them until almost half-time to get themselves back on terms and it was Neil Williams, an ex-Bemerton player, who was the architect of the equaliser. Taking possession just inside the opposition half, he played a lovely diagonal ball for top gun Craig Feeney to score.

gun Craig Feeney to score. With widemen Nick Watts and Mike Gosney coming to the fore, the Stags' early second-half pressure eventually told when ex-Sholing man Watts made it 2-1.

Skipper Liam Hibberd then starred at both ends for Totton, first making an outstanding tackle to deny Heath a decent scoring opportunity and then cutting in from the left before letting fly with a stunning right-foot swerver for 3-1.

With four minutes remaining, Watts and Gosney combined to open up Bemerton's defence again, leaving Williams the easiest of tasks to poke home from close range.

Manager Steve Hollick will have taken many positives from the game as his team prepare for their final friendly at Steve Claridge's Salisbury today at 3pm.



Liam Hibberd, left.

Nick back

DEFENDER Nick Tayler has returned to Horndean after a spell away with Alton, Hamworthy, Fareham and, most recently, Sydenhams Premier Division rivals Blackfield & Langley.

Tayler is one of three recent additions to the Deans camp, joining ex-AFC Portchester and Baffins Milton Rovers defender Josh Maddison at Five Heads Park

Left back Lee Tigwell has signed a one-year deal after completing his transfer from Wessex League team Fareham Town. 14 DAILY ECHO Saturday, August 1, 2015

Non league FOOTBALL



Bashley give manager sack after 40 days for 'poor pre-season'

NON-LEAGUE Bashley made national internet headlines this week – for sacking a manager for "a poor pre-season".

News of Steve Riley's return to the Southern One South & West club after three years with AFC Totton was overshadowed by the departure of ex-Chelsea defender Dave Stride after just 40 days in the job.

The story quickly captured the at-

tention of BBC Sport, prompting a tweet exclaiming: "It seems to happen earlier every year!"

When contacted by BBC Sport, Stride – appointed by Bashley's old regime on June 17 – took issue with the club statement saying he had been asked to step down as first-team manager by the new board because of "poor pre-season results and lack of player signings".

Branding it "absolute codswallop", the Lymington-based 57-yearold, who made 35 appearances for Chelsea between 1978 and 1980 and also spent time playing for Leyton Orient and Millwall, claimed: "The club already had someone in mind to replace me, but waited two weeks before telling me.

"I've no hard feelings but, sadly, the club weren't man enough to tell me earlier. I was given the guarantee I'd be left alone for a season to take sole charge of football matters, but I'm gone after just two games."

A statement on Bashley's website said: "The new board acted swiftly to engage the services of Steve Riley, the most successful manager that Bashley has had, taking the team previously from the South & West into the Premier Division."

Diaper comes back out from retirement to play for rivals

36-year-old Marc makes his return with AFC Totton

MARC Diaper has crossed the Southampton divide and signed for his old club's arch rivals AFC Totton.

Diaper, son of Sholing boss Dave, spent well over a decade with the Boatmen, culminating in FA Vase glory in 2014.

The 36-year-old was one of a handful of Sholing players to hang up their boots following that Wembley triumph, but he has been talked out of retirement by Totton's goalkeeping coach Jamie Cotton.

Totton boss Steve Hollick ex-

Totton boss Steve Hollick explained: "Jamie is friends with Marc and when I spoke to him he said he wanted a new challenge. It's good for us because we were struggling to find a replacement for our promising, young left-back Drew Bridge, who is back off to university.

"Marc had apparently played in a friendly somewhere and discovered he would quite like to play football again. He spoke to his dad and, with the way Sholing are gearing up with an impetus of fresh players, he decided he would come and play for us and he's fitted in well.

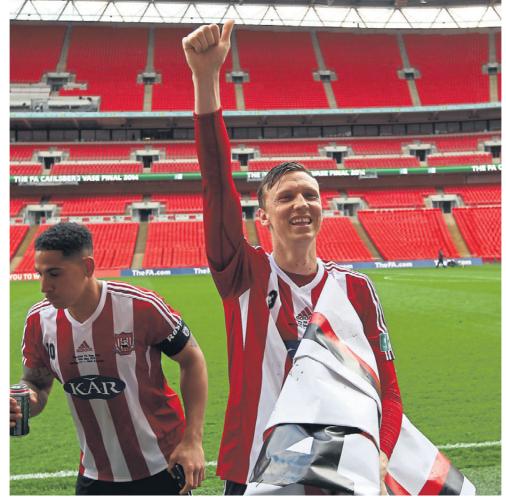
"Marc works in London, so there are travelling commitments, but he's fully committed to what we are trying to do.

"The fact we've got lads like Mike Gosney, Dave Allen, Nathaniel Sherborne and Neil Williams helps. We're not a team full of youngsters any more. We've got some more experienced guys."

Another good fit for Hollick's more mature Totton side is 30-year-old James 'Monkey' Roden, who previously played for the Stags during Stuart Ritchie's reign.

One of several players to have parted company with Sydenhams outfit Folland over the summer, Roden signed forms for Hollick's Southern One South & West outfit after impressing against Poole Town.

"James was a midfielder but he's more of a centre-back these days and he was outstanding against Poole.



Marc Diaper celebrates Sholing's FA Vase win at Wembley in 2014

"He's got a bit about him – and he doesn't take any prisoners!" smiled Hollick.

"He's just turned 30 and he's a really good character and he's loving being back at Totton."

The Stags were this week also trying to strike up a deal with ex-Winchester City and Alresford Town player Chris Manning. The midfielder had been due to link up with his old boss Danny Robinson at Thatcham Town, but wants to play closer to home.

"Chris was the only one travelling up to Thatcham from Southampton and it was too much for him," said Hollick. "He works nearby at Testwood School and we're trying to agree terms with him." One player who won't be joining Totton is former Eastleigh youngster Harrison Weeks who, having been released by the Spitfires, has returned to Lymington Town where he spent time on loan last season.

Hollick said the Stags couldn't compete financially with Lymington, who play one level below them in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Ex-Saints man hired

FORMER Southampton youth coach Sam Waters has been appointed manager of Basingstoke Town's newly-formed Under-21 Elite Development Squad.

The programme, aimed at further developing players graduating from the club's academy, was set up earlier this summer.

Waters, who has been involved with Saints' successful youth programme and has also held coaching roles at Aldershot and Crawley, is currently working towards his UEFA A Licence.

Basingstoke's first-team boss Jason Bristow said: "Sam will bring a wealth of experience in youth development to Basingstoke Town.

"He has a proven track record of producing football players at a variety of levels and will play an integral role in producing future first-team players for Basingstoke

Joining Waters in Town's under-21 management team will be Stephen Mills, goalkeeper coach Danny Kelly and Ben Shore.

Bristow added: "Stephen, David and Ben each bring with them their own experiences and knowledge of the game. I am very confident that, as a team, they will succeed and help create a brighter future for the club."

Basingstoke's under-21s will play some of their matches at the home of Frimley Green as part of a deal that will see some promising youngsters given the chance to play in the Combined Counties League.

 BASINGSTOKE Town boss Jason Bristow is "excited" by young striker George Hallahan.

The 18-year-old, a product of the National League South club's academy system, has signed a contract at the Soccer AM Stadium after impressing in pre-season.

Bristow said: "It is great for the club to have a player breaking through from the academy.

"Being around the squad and involved in games is only going to make him a better

"It has been really good to see how he has settled in with the squad and I hope there is more to come."

● THE Alresford 6-a-Side Football League is looking for teams for the new Summer 2015 season, starting in late August.

Games are played on Monday nights on the 3G Astroturf pitches at Perins Community School.

Teams can call 01937 841440 or email info@ **DAILY ECHO**

Non league FOOTBALL





New Cherries signing is inspired by Austin's story

JORDAN Green has named former Poole Town striker Charlie Austin, left, as his inspiration after swapping non-League Banbury United for the bright lights of Premier League new boys AFC Bournemouth.

The 20-year-old, released by Fulham at the age of 16, scored six goals in 32 matches for the Puritans last season and felt deflated following relegation from the Evo-Stik Southern Premier.

But his agent then set him up with a trial for the Cherries and the winger has

now signed a one-year deal. Green said: "When you're in the non-League environment you never know if a chance will come, so it makes you all the more determined to take it.

"Everybody's heard about Charlie Austin's story and it inspired me a lot. Six years ago he was playing for Poole Town and now he's in the England squad.

"It showed me that I should always keep on going."

Green, who worked as a shelf-stacker at Waitrose at New Cross, added: "I know I have come from a low standard and I know it is a big step to the Premier League, but I'll give it everything I've

The Londoner will start his Dean Court career in Stephen Purches' under-21 squad as he looks to force his way into Eddie Howe's plans.

"I spent five years at Fulham but, unfortunately, didn't get offered a scholar-ship when I was 16," he explained.

"I was 4ft 11ins, maybe 5ft, at the time, but have grown a lot since then.

Poole will stamp out section of troublesome supporters

Robust action will be taken, says the vice-chairman

VICE-CHAIRMAN Chris Reeves has vowed Poole Town will take the "strongest and most robust action" to deal with a group of followers which has attached itself to the club.

Concern among the Tatnam club's board and supporters has grown after a lit smoke bomb was thrown onto the playing surface and another set off during the second half of last week's friendly at AFC Totton, writes Andy Mitchell.

Police were called to assist stewards in ejecting those thought to be responsible for the incident at the Testwood Stadium, in Salisbury Road.

Some members of the group later tried to regain entry by climbing the fence and opening a gate in another area of the ground. Police attended for a second time and they were moved on.

The matter is understood to have been referred to the Football Association (FA).

Poole encountered similar problems towards the back end of last season but while the club faces an onerous task to identify each of the individuals involved, Reeves is determined to stamp out any future

breaches of ground regulations.

Reeves told The Pink's sister paper The (Bournemouth) Daily Echo: "We are distinctly unhappy at the group of so-called supporters who have latched on to our club and will be doing everything in our power to ensure our games get conducted in the way non-league football is famous for.

"It is one of the beauties of our level of the game that you simply don't hear of crowd trouble with the exception of very isolated incidents and we are very proud of playing our part in upholding that reputation at

"We will be doing everything in our



Poole Town's Chris Reeves.

power to ensure these incidents are not repeated and that those responsible are not granted entry to the ground.

"It is extremely difficult bearing in mind we don't know them. We had professional stewards at Saturday's game (at home to Gosport) who had specific instructions to deny access to the ground to anyone giving the impression of being part of that group. As it happened, they didn't turn up.

The intention is to re-draft the ground regulations and make sure they are prominently displayed outside the ground with a very firm indication that the club reserves the right to refuse admission.

"Within reason, we want to take the strongest and most robust action to preserve our good name and the enjoyment factor that is so prominent at our games at Tatnam.

Binns tips old allies

DALE Binns is backing some of his old Eastleigh teammates to shine in the Vanarama National League South this term.

The 34-year-old wideman, who recently signed for Wealdstone, is convinced c-Spitfires midfielder Daryl McMahon will have a big say in the promotion hunt as manager of Ebbsfleet United.

And he reckons that his last club Sutton United, who have added ex-Eastleigh quartet Dean Beckwith, Craig McAllister, Stuart Fleetwood and Dan Spence to their ranks this summer, will also be in with a shout - providing they can adjust to playing on their new, artificial 3G surface.

Binns said: "Daryl's a good friend and he's already got a good team together.

"There's pressure on them (Ebbsfleet), but they have recruited well and they'll play good football.

"If they start well, they'll be

difficult to stop."
As for Paul Doswell's Sutton, the experienced left winger added: "Last year they took a gamble with some rough gems that could play, but this time they've brought in real quality which is proven at this level.

"They've got players who have been there, done it and

are hungry.
"They will be up there, but it's how they adapt to the 3G.

"They have some older players and, on grass, you can nurse injuries, but you can't on 3G. You can get

As for the season ahead with Wealdstone, Binns said: "I like a challenge.

"In recent years I've usually been in teams pushing for promotion, but here the expectations are slightly different. A realistic aim is top half but, first and foremost, we have to get points on the board.

The age stat (just turned 34) doesn't look good, but I feel as young, fit and strong as anyone. I've still got a lot to offer."

Ebbsfleet kick off the new campaign at home to Jason Bristow's Basingstoke Town next Saturday. Sutton entertain 3G

specialists Maidstone United.



Dale Binns

DAILY ECHO 16 Saturday, August 1, 2015

Non league FOOTBALL





Charles takes reins as Town's exile comes to an end

FORMER AFC Totton striker Michael Charles will lead Alton Town on their return into the Sydenhams Wessex ranks.

The east Hampshire outfit, who will start the new season in Sydenhams One after two years exiled to the Combined Counties League, have chosen Charles to succeed long-serving clubman Clive Ventham at the Anstey Road helm.

Charles has a wealth of Conference football behind him with the likes of Farnborough, Woking and Basingstoke Town and helped spearhead AFC Totton's magical journey to the FA Cup second round proper in 2011/12

The Camberley-based hitman went on to play for Winchester City and Poole Town. His last club was Metropolitan Police, but he was forced to hang up his boots aged 27 due to a serious injury sustained last season.

Charles ruptured anterior cruciate ligaments in a Ryman Premier Division game against Witham Town - a match subsequently abandoned due to poor playing conditions.

Confirming his playing days were over, Charles tweeted at the time: "(It's) A decision that hasn't been taken lightly but has taken a lot of thought

"The boots will be hung up. I will stay in the football community somehow. But it's best for my future this happened. Disappointed but it cer-

Sides see cup draws

SOUTHAMPTON SATURDAY JUNIOR B CUP First round (to be played on or before Saturday, September 19): Braishfield v Weston City, West End Rovers v Shield, Sporting Wessex v Upham Res

Second round (to be played on or before Saturday, October 17): AFC Hiltingbury v Michelmersh & Timbsbury Res, AFC Phoenix XI v Braishfield Res or Weston City, Hythe Aztecs v AFC Station, Inmar v Hamble Utd Res, Kings Inmar v Hamble Utd Hes, Kings Park Rangers v Hythe Aztecs Res, Waltham Wolves v Hedge End Town Res, Warsash Wasps v Athletico Romsey Res, West End Rovers or Shield v Sporting Wessex or Upham Res.

SOUTHAMPTON SATURDAY VETERANS' CUP

VETERANS' CUP
First round (to be played on or before Saturday, September 19): Baddesley Park v Winchester
OB, Colden Common O40 v
BTC Southampton O40, Gosport v
Sporting BTC O40, Hamble
Plumb O40 v Winchester
Castle, Hythe & Dioden O40
v Compton, Langley Manor
O40 v Hamble Club O40,
Michelmersh & Timsbury O40 v
Sporting BTC, Nurling v Royal
Mail, Totton v Michelmersh &
Timsbury, Woolston T&L v BTC
Southampton.

Timsbury, Woolston T&L v BTC Southampton.
Second round (to be played on or before Saturday, October 17): Baddesley Park or Winchester OB v Redlynch & W O40, Gosport or Sporting BTC O40 v Woolston T&L or BTC Southampton, Hythe & Dibden O40 or Compton v BTC Southampton B, Michelmersh & Timsbury O40 or Sporting BTC Simple BTC Southampton B, Michelmersh & Timsbury O40 or Sporting BTC Southampton B, Michelmersh & Timsbury O40 or Sporting BTC v Colden Common O40 or BTC v Colden Common O40 or BTC Southampton O40, Priory Rovers v Redlynch & W, Redbridge OB v Nursling or Royal Mail, Totton or Michelmersh & Timsbury v Hamble Plumb O40 or Winchester Castle, Wildern OB v Langley Manor O40 or Hamble Club O40.

SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY SENIOR CUP First round (to be played on or before Sunday, September 20): Bush Hill v Testlands, Titans v Sky Blues. Second round (to be played on or before Sunday, October 18): Cricketers FO v Boyatt Wood Wanderers, Itchen Saints v Bitterne RBI, KRL v Ice House, Landhuard Rovers v Hedroe Fine SENIOR CUP Landguard Rovers v Hedge End Athletic, RS Nomansland v Bush Hill or Testlands, Sholing Utd v Fawley RBL, Titans or Sky Blues v Hamble Roll Call, Yacht Tavern

SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY
JUNIOR A CUP
First round (to be played on or
before Sunday, September 20):
AFC Dorchester v Abshot, AFC
Southbrook v King George,
Aldermoor Utla v CDA, Bitterne
Ducks v Marchwood Rangers,
Curbridge v Royale Marine,
Durley v AFC Velmore, Eastpoint
v AFC Riverside, Itchen Saints
Res v Bishops, Whitehart Utl v
AFC Portswood, FC Railway v
AFC Bishopstoke.

v AFC West End.

Second round: First round (to Second round: First round (to be played on or before Sunday, October 18): AFC Dorchester or Abshot v Portside, AFC Southbrook or King George v FC Railway or AFC Bishopstoke, Aldermoor Utd or CDA v George v Rolarmoor Utd or CDA v George v Rounds of AFC Velmore v Mottisfont, Eastpoint or AFC Riverside v Lokomotiv Eastleigh, Itchen Saints Res or Bishops v AFC Waterside, Whitehart Utd or AFC Portswood v Bitterne Ducks or Marchwood Rangers. or Marchwood Rangers.

Holders Solent get bye with a little help from the draw

City's senior cup welcomes back top Wessex sides

HOLDERS Team Solent have been handed a bye to the second round of this season's Southampton Saturday Senior Cup.

James Taylor's Southampton Solent University side, who edged Hamble Club 3-2 in April's showpiece final at St Mary's, will begin their defence of the trophy in October against the winners of the Otterbourne versus Totton & Eling tie, writes Wendy Gee.

The 2015/16 Southampton Senior Cup, sponsored by TrophyMan, has been given added interest this year by the return of the Sydenhams Premier Division clubs from inside the SFDA boundary.

Like newly-promoted Team Solent, Blackfield & Langley, Fawley AFC, Folland Sports, Brockenhurst, Lymington Town and Sholing have all been blessed with home ties in the second round.

So too have Wessex One outfit Romsey Town who will host the winners of the in-house battle between BTC Southampton and BTC Southampton Reserves

Companies wishing to get involved with sponsoring any of the SDFA's other cup competitions, for as little as £250, should contact secretary Mike Harvey on 07936 398902.

SOUTHAMPTON SATURDAY SENIOR CUP (sponsored by TrophyMan) First round (to be played on or before Saturday, September 19): AFC Bolley v Sholing Res, AFC Gulf Western v East Boldre, BTC Southampton v BTC Southampton Res, Burridge AFC v Winchester City Res, Bush Hill Western State Stat v Braishfield, Bush Hill Res v Hamble Club Res. Chamberlayne Ath v Comrades, Compton v Chamberlayne Ath v Comrades, Compton v Colden Common, Durley v Hedge End Town, Hamble Club v Bishopstoke, Hedge End Rangers v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Hedge End Rangers Res v AFC Totton Res, Hythe & Dibden v Cadnam Utd, Nursling v Netley Central Sports, Otterbourne v Totton & Eling, QK Southampton v Locks Heath, Southampton Uni v Warsash Wasps, Winchester Castle v Otterbourne Res.

Second round (to be played on or before Saturday, October 17): AFC Stoneham v AFC Gulf Western or East Boldre, Bishops Waltham



Team Solent celebrate a goal against Hamble Club in last season's Southampton Senior Cup final at St Mary's.

Dynamos v Southampton Uni or Warsash Wasps, Blackfield & Langley v Winchester Castle or Otterbourne Res, Brockenhurst v Park Sports, Burridge AFC or Winchester City Res v Compton or Colden Common, Fawley AFC v Hythe & Dibden or Cadnam Utd, Folland Sports v Bush Hill Res or Hamble Club Res, Hedge End Rangers Res or AFC Totton Res v Durley or Hedge End Town, Infinity v Hamble Club or Bishopsteka, Lymington Town v AFC, Bettlev or Dynamos v Southampton Uni or Warsash Bishopstoke, Lymington Town v AFC Botley or Sholing Res. Lyndhurst v Chamberlayne Ath Comrades, Nursling or Netley CS v Hedge End

Rangers or Michelmersh & Timsbury, Romsey Town v BTC Southampton or BTC Southampton Res, Sholing v Bush Hill or Braishfield, Team Solent v Otterbourne or Totton & Eling, Upham v QK Southampton or Locks Heath.

SOUTHAMPTON SATURDAY JUNIOR A CUF First round (to be played on or before Saturday, September 19): Burridge AFC Res v Botley Village, Compton Res v New Forest, Hamble Utd v BTC Southampton A, Knightwood Utd v Athletic Romsey, London Airways v Priory

Rovers, Park Phoenix v Shamblehurst,

Second round (to be played on or before Saturday, October 17): AFC Testwood v Durley Res, Burridge AFC Res or Botley Village v Wellow, FC White Horse v Compton Res or New Forest, Fusion Sports v London Airways or Priory Rovers, Hamble Utd or BTC Southampton A v Shizas Stars, Knightwood Utd or Athletico Romsey v EPFC, Langley Manor v Capital, Park Phoenix or Shamblehurst v FC

Championship 2015-16

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Tom Ince (Derby) will all be gunning for promotion this season

Saturday, August 1, 2015

club news

No shades of Gray for Rowett

GARY ROWETT is in no doubt what **Birmingham's** most important deal this summer was – securing highly-rated 19-year-old Demarai Gray, *right*, to a new three-year contract.

Rowett said: "He is our biggest signing of the summer, a fantastic deal for us. He came back more focused this pre-season: a little bit bigger and a little bit taller."



A dream come true for Petshi

NEW signing Sacha Petshi reckons his move to **Blackburn** is a dream come true.

Petshi, 24, began his career at Montpellier and recently played for Caen, scoring seven times in a two-year spell there. Rovers are still under the restrictions of a transfer embargo due to their failure to comply with Financial Fair Play regulations, but have signed free transfers.

Petshi said: "I'm very happy to be here, it is my dream to play in England and now my dream has come true. I hope we win many games."

A new beginning for forward Madine

BOLTON new-boy Gary Madine is viewing his move to Lancashire as a chance for a fresh start. Previous spells at Carlisle and Sheffield Wednesday have been marred by criminal convictions for three separate assaults, but the forward insists he is now a changed man.

He said: "The nightclub thing has got in the way of my football career, but anyone who knows me knows I'm not that person. When Sheffield Wednesday got promoted I'd scored all those goals, even though I'd missed three-and-a-half months of the season. But I never really got my chance in the Championship."

Harper is the Real deal for Seagulls

JACK HARPER has vowed to bring some Spanish flair and Scottish grit to **Brighton**.

The Seagulls pulled off a coup when they announced the signing of teenage starlet Harper from Real Madrid. The 19-year-old striker, born in Malaga to Scottish parents, has been at the Bernabeu since he was 13 and last season played for the Spanish giants' youth side in the UEFA Youth League.

Harper said: "I would say that I'm a natural goalscorer; I've got the natural Spanish technique, but I work like a Scotsman."

Smith hungry for Robins success

BRISTOL CITY have been one of the quietest sides in the transfer market this summer, with boss Steve Cotterill keeping faith in the players who led the Robins to promotion.

Midfielder Korey Smith, right, reckons the consistency will be a real advantage. He said: "There was a hunger to win the league title and it will be exactly the same. Some of the lads have not played at this level before."

Dyche hails Lowton's ambition

NEW boy Matt Lowton epitomises what **Burnley** boss Sean Dyche was looking for when recruiting ahead of a promotion push.

Lowton made just 13 appearances for Aston Villa last season, and has moved to Turf Moor in search of first-team football.

Dyche said: "He wants to be in the Premier League, and he feels we can challenge to do that. There's a thirst from players, not all players, to play. If you feel your game time is going to be limited, that can only last so long, depending what kind of animal you are."

Cardiff keep hold of Gunnarsson

CARDIFF'S best bit of activity this summer may not be in the transfer market, but in keeping hold of their longest-serving player Aron Gunnarsson.

The 26-year-old midfielder had a year left to run on his current deal, but will now stay until at least the summer of 2018. The Iceland man said: "I'm very happy to be committing my future to Cardiff City Football Club.

"I've enjoyed some fantastic times already during the four seasons I've been here and look forward to many more as we aim to push on next season and beyond. I'd like to thank the City fans for their support.

"We're all going to be looking to hit the ground running and I'm delighted that I've been able to sort out my future ahead of the new campaign so that my focus can be fully on the task in hand."

Gunnarsson joined Cardiff from Coventry in the summer of 2011 and is the Bluebirds' third longest-serving current player behind Peter Whittingham and David Marshall.

He has made a total of 168 appearances for the club, scoring 18 goals.

Bees going Dutch for the long term

Win or lose, new Brentford boss Dijkhuizen will be given time to succeed

by Luke Thornhill

BRENTFORD raised eyebrows in deciding to replace Mark Warburton with Marinus Dijkhuizen, but the London club insist it is all part of their long-term strategy, which means their new boss will be given all the support he needs. Warburton led the Bees to

Warburton led the Bees to promotion from League One, then into the Championship play-offs, but his contract was not renewed as Bees owner Matthew Benham wanted to move to a recruitment philosophy which focused more on mathematical modelling.

Director of football Rasmus Ankersen says that change in outlook means the club will stick by their new head coach, even if things do not go immediately to plan.

immediately to plan.

He said: "He definitely has our support. Football is very black and white, but one of its biggest problems is when you make decisions on a temporary variation in results.

"This short-termism is causing a lot of bad decisions. We want to look at our performances in a wider expectation, and look beyond what is obvious, in terms of if you have won or lost.

"We felt that is important when you measure the impact that a head coach or manager has."

Dijkhuizen has big shoes to fill after the popular Warburton - now installed as Glasgow Rangers manager – guided Brentford to fifth in their first season back in the Championship

Championship.
Ankersen added: "It would be stupid not to try to do better than last season, and that means being in the race for promotion again. We definitely



Marinus Dijkhuizen has been told he will not be judged solely on his side's results

think that's possible, but football is a random game.

"There are no guarantees, but we aim high. If we fail this year we will aim high next year. It's a club with big ambitions."

The club have been busy in the transfer market this summer, with one of the most noticeable new arrivals being midfielder Josh McEachran from Chelsea.

He fits the mould of "unfulfilled potential" targeted by the club perfectly, having been tipped for big things but never breaking through at Stamford Bridge.

The 22-year-old has represented England at Under-20, Under-19, Under-17 and Under-16 level, and helped his country win the European Under-17 Championship in 2010. He spent a lot of time out on loan – with spells at



There are no guarantees, but we aim high. If we fail this year we will aim high next year. It's a club with big ambitions

- Brentford director of football Rasmus Ankersen Swansea, Watford, Wigan and Middlesbrough.

Last season saw him play 21 times for Vitesse Arnhem in the Dutch Eredivisie, helping them finish fifth in the table and earn a place in the Europa League.

Dijkhuizen thinks McEachran's experience will be a huge asset to his team.

He said: "Josh is a versatile midfielder who can play in a holding role and as a playmaker.

"He was a big talent at Chelsea and now I look forward to working with him alongside our coaching staff to help take Josh on to the next level.

"Although he played at Vitesse last season, he has good experience of English football and will fit into our playing style quickly."



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divisional profiles



Veteran Darren Bent made a permanent switch to Derby this summer after his release from Aston Villa

Rams march on

by Sean Taylor

DERBY'S past two campaigns have ended in heartbreak and disappointment, but this season looks like it could be their year.

After the last-gasp defeat to QPR in the play-off final at Wembley in 2013/14, Steve McClaren was expected to take the Rams that one step further.

Everything was going well around the turn of the year and the Midlands club looked on course for a return to the Premier League, but they self-destructed during the closing months.

Just two wins from the final 13 matches saw Derby drop out of the promotion race altogether, finishing eighth and not even make the play-offs.

The Rams have since made their intentions clear with the appointment of highly-rated coach Paul Clement and the arrival of some stellar signings

Darren Bent and Tom Ince have made permanent moves to the iPro Stadium after loan spells last season, while Andreas Weimann also looks a fabulous acquisition.

Finish above Derby and you will likely win the League, and

Bent and Ince captures are real boost for the promotion-seekers

the bookmakers seem to agree, with the Rams 11-2 to lift the title with Stan James.

Middlesbrough, play-off finalists last season, and Hull, relegated from the Premier League, look most capable of challenging Derby. Boro relied on the goals of

Boro relied on the goals of Patrick Bamford last time, and with the Chelsea youngster now loaned to Crystal Palace, it remains to be seen where their goals are going to come from.

If Hull can hang on to their star names then they must be contenders, and Nikica Jelavic should thrive up front. Of the other sides to come

Of the other sides to come down, QPR, like the Tigers, will need to hang on to their better players.

Burnley lost their two biggest stars in Danny Ings and Kieran Trippier when they were relegated, but they have kept hold of manager Sean Dyche and his team-first philosophy should ensure they are in the mix

Brentford and Ipswich, who face each other at Griffin Park

on the opening day, were the other teams to have their promotion dreams dashed in the play-offs last season and they are expected to feature prominently again along with Wolves who, in their first campaign back in the second tier, missed out on a top-six finish on goal difference.

hinish on goal difference.

Of the promoted clubs,
Preston look better equipped
than Bristol City and MK
Dons. A strikeforce of Joe
Garner and Jermaine Beckford
bodes well for their chances
and boss Simon Grayson is
also vastly experienced when
it comes to managing clubs
who have gone up.

Rotherham survived last season despite a points deduction, but they could be down there battling again along with Bristol City and the Dons.

The likes of Brighton, Reading and Bolton will be hoping to make a marked improvement, but perhaps only the Royals, who have recruited well this summer, will make inroads up the table.



Finish above
Derby and you
will likely win the
League, and the
bookmakers
seem to agree,
with the Rams
11-2 to lift the
title with
Stan James

Latics aiming to 'smash' division

WIGAN'S billing as favourites for promotion has not deterred chairman David Sharpe, who has told their League One rivals he wants to take the division by storm.

For the third straight season the Latics are fancied to go up, only this time it is from the third tier after their surprising relegation out of the Championship.

A succession of poor decisions, including the controversial hiring of Malky Mackay, proved the 2013 FA Cup winners' undoing during a campaign where previous chairman Dave Whelan handed over the reins to his 23-year-old grandson.

Spurred on by their disastrous demotion, Sharpe outlined his lofty ambitions to bounce back in style.

He said: "I don't just want to win this League, I want to smash it and get 100 points.

"I go home and all I think about is Wigan Athletic. I've had a lot of sleepless nights after last season, but we're all determined to make amends."

Blackpool were the only side to finish below Wigan in the Championship and more chaos could be on the cards at Bloomfield Road. The much-maligned chairman Karl Oyston remains, although he starts the season in the midst of a ban from football, and their first pre-season friendly, like their final game of last season, was abandoned due to pitch-invading supporters.

The roller-coaster shows no sign of slowing down under Neil McDonald.

Like McDonald, Sheffield United's Nigel Adkins, Oldham's Darren Kelly and Chesterfield's Dean Saunders begin the season with new clubs.

Adkins has been tasked with getting the Blades out of the third tier, something he has achieved on three separate occasions before with Scunthorpe (twice) and Southampton.

Elsewhere, Swindon and Chesterfield, both play-off participants in May, may struggle to replicate those finishes with a number of key players departing both teams, but Barnsley, Bradford and Scunthorpe will fancy their chances of being in top-six contention having recruited wisely and in numbers.

Pompey chime can ring out

PORTSMOUTH look the team to beat in League Two after a summer of big investment.

The 2014-15 campaign was not even over when Pompey began putting the pieces of their promotion plan in place for this season, approaching Chesterfield in April for permission to speak to their manager Paul Cook.

A compensation package took Cook to the south coast the following month, after the Spireites were beaten in the League One play-offs, and a glut of signings followed — most of whom are capable of playing a level above.

of playing a level above.
Cook, who won the League
Two title with Chesterfield in
2014, has strengthened
Portsmouth's defence with
the acquisition of Enda
Stevens and Christian
Burgess, while Kyle Bennett
and Gary Roberts, who came
with Cook from Chesterfield,
provide the guile in midfield.

Adam McGurk, who helped Burton win the League Two title last season, and Jayden Stockley look a daunting proposition up front.

Luton narrowly missed out on the play-offs last time and they might be the team to push Portsmouth.

The Hatters have also recruited heavily over the summer and the likes of Cameron McGeehan, Scott Cuthbert, Magnus Okuonghae, Paddy McCourt and Danny Green look astute additions, so John Still's men are expected to be right up there come May.

Wycombe, Plymouth and Stevenage, with Teddy Sheringham now in his first managerial role, will all look to feature prominently again after seeing their dreams dashed in the play-offs. Of those relegated from

Of those relegated from League One, Notts County look better equipped than Crawley, Leyton Orient and Yeovil to bounce back.

The signing of Jon Stead is a real coup for the Magpies, but it will be interesting to see how a string of overseas additions adapt to the basement division.







championship team-by-team guide

Birmingham

Manager	Gary Rowett	
Ground	St Andrew's	
Capacity	30,016	
Website	bcfc.com	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Alex Jones, Adam Legzdins Tomasz Kuszczak, Jacques Maghoma

OUT: Amari'i Bell, Darren Randolph, Callum Reilly, Matt Green, Colin Doyle, Mark Duffy, Will Packwood, Olly Lee, Gavin Gunning, Nikola Zigic.

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 50-1

Promotion: 16-1



LAST SEASON (Championship)

Pos P	W	D	L.	F	Α	ĠĎ	Pts
10 46	16	15	15	54	64	-10	63
Top sco	rer (L	eagu	e) C l	Donal	ldson		15
FA Cup Fourth round							

League Cup

Fourth round	
Second round	

Burnley

Manager	Sean Dyche
Ground	Turf Moor
Capacity	22,546
Website	burnleyfootballclub.com

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Matthew Lowton, Jelle Vo

OUT: Danny Ings, Kieran Trippier, Steven Reid, Ross Wallace, Cameron Howieson

To win Championship: 14-1

Promotion: 9-2



LAS	ST S	EASO	N (Pı	emier	Lea	gue, i	relega	ted)
Pos	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
19	38	7	12	19	28	53	-25	33
Ton	sco	rer (eagu	e) D I	nas			11

Top scorer (Leag	Top scorer (League) D Ings				
FA Cup	Third round				
League Cup	Second round				

Hull City

Manager	Steve Bruce	
Ground	KC Stadium	
Capacity	25,404	
Website	hullcityafc.net	

SUMMER TRANSFERS IN: Sam Clucas, Rvan Taylor

OUT: Stephen Quinn, Liam Rosenior, Paul McShane, Tom Ince, Yannick Sagbo, Maynor Figueroa, Steve Harper, Joe Dudgeon

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 9-1

Promotion: 3-1



LA	ST SI	EASO	N (Pi	emier	Leag	gue, I	relega	ted)
Pos	s P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
18	38	8	11	19	33	51	-18	35
Top	sco	rer (L	.eagu	e) N	Jelav	ic		8

FA Cup	Third round
League Cup	Third round

Preston

Manager	Simon Grayson
Ground	Deepdale
Capacity	24,000
Website	pnefc.net

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Jermaine Beckford, Paul Gallagher Will Keane, Greg Cunningham.

OUT: Kevin Davies, Keith Keane, Jack King, Scott Wiseman, Scott Laird, Lee Holmes, David Buchanan, Sylvain Ebanks-Blake, Thorsten Stuckmann

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 33-1

Promotion: 14-1



LAST SEASON (League One, promoted)

Pos	s P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
3	46	25	14	7	79	40	+39	89
Top	sco	rer (L	.eagu	e) J (Garne	r		25

FA Cup	Fifth round
League Cup	Second round

Blackburn

Manager	Gary Bowyer	
Ground	Ewood Park	
Capacity	31,367	
Website	rovers.co.uk	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Bangaly-Fode Koita, Sacha Petshi.

OUT: Josh Morris, Josh King, Tom Cairney David Dunn, Paul Robinson, Bradley Bauress, Kellen Daly, Adrian Edo, Sam Jones, Paulo Jorge, George Pierce, Cameron Scott, Yann Songo'o, Callum Williams, Leon Best.

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 20-

Promotion: 9-1



LAST SEASON (Cha

Po	s P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
9	46	17	16	13	66	59	+7	67
То	p sco	rer (L	eagu	e) J F	Rhode	!S		21

FA Cup	Quarter-finals
League Cup	Second round

Manager	Russell Slade	
Ground	Cardiff City Stadium	
Capacity	26,828	
Website	cardiffcityfc.co.uk	
	SUMMER TRANSFERS	

IN: Semi Ajayi, Sammy Ameobi.

OUT: Kevin McNaughton, Danny Gabbidon,

Nicky Maynard, Maxi Amondarain, Josh Yorwerth, Tom Adeyemi.

STAN JAMES ODDS To win Championship: 25-1



LAST SEASON (Championship)

FUS		AA	U		г	Α.	Uυ	P L
11	46	16	14	16	57	61	-4	62
Top	sco	rer (L	.eagu	ie) K .	Jones			11

FA Cup Fourth round League Cup Third round

Ipswich

Manager	Mick McCarthy
Ground	Portman Road
Capacity	30,311
Website	itfc.co.uk
	SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Josh Yorwerth, Brett Pitman, Rvan Fraser, Ainsley Maitland-Niles.

OUT: Tyrone Mings, Paul Anderson, Stephen Hunt, Noel Hunt, Darren Ambrose, Elliott Hewitt, Jack Marriott, Omar Sowunmi

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 20-1

Promotion: 7-1



LAST SEASON (Championship) W D L F A GD Pts

U	40	22	12	12	12	34	110	70
То	p sco	rer (L	.eagu	ie) D	Murp	hy		27
FA	Cup			Th	ird ro	und		
Le	ague	Cup		Fir	st ro	und		

Manager	Chris Ramsey
Ground	Loftus Road
Capacity	19,148
Mahaita	anrequik

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Massimo Luongo, Ben Gladwin, Jay Emmanuel-Thomas, Jamie Mackie, Tyler Blackwood, Sebastian Polter.

OUT: Joey Barton, Rio Ferdinand, Bobby Zamora, Richard Dunne, Shaun Wright-Phillips, Brian Murphy, Adel Taarabt,

STAN JAMES ODDS To win Championship: 16-1



LAST SEASON (Premier League, relegated) Pos P W D L F A GD Pts 20 38 8 6 24 42 73 -31 30

lop scorer (League) C Austin		IC
FA Cup	Third round	
League Cup	Second round	

Bolton

Manager	Neil Lennon	
Ground	Macron Stadium	
Capacity	30,208	
Website	bwfc.co.uk	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Gary Madine, Ben Amos, Derik Osede, Jon Ceberio, Jordan Lussey.

OUT: Craig Davies, Adam Bogdan, Matt Mills, Andy Lonergan, Ryan Sellers, Jermaine Beckford, Sanmi Odelusi, Conor Wilkinson, Eidur Gudjohnsen, Keith Andrews, Chris Lester, Georg Iliev, Luke Woodland, Glenn Matthews, James Ball, Carl Kennedy, Kieran Nolan.

STAN JAMES ODDS To win Championship: 33-1

Promotion: 11-1



LAST SEASON (Championship)

Po:	s P	W	D	L	F	Α	ĞD	Pts	
18	46	13	12	21	54	67	-13	51	
Top	sco	rer (L	.eagu	e) A	Le Fo	ndre		8	

FA Cup	Fourth round
League Cup	Third round

Charlton

Manager	Guy Luzon	
Ground	The Valley	
Capacity	27,111	
Website	cafc.co.uk	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Patrick Bauer, El-Hadji Ba

OUT: Joe Gomez, Christophe Lepoint, Tal Ben Haim, Simon Church, Chris Eagles, Roger Johnson, Lawrie Wilson, Oguchi Onyewu, Neil Etheridge, Jack Munns, Harry Gerard, Kadell Daniel, Kurtis Cumberbatch, Kieran Monlouis, Rhys Browne, Levander Pyke, Harry Osborne, Dillon Phillips.

STAN JAMES ODDS

Promotion: 16-1

To win Championship: 66-1

LAST SEASON (Championship)

Po	s P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pt
12	46	14	18	14	54	60	-6	60
То	p sco	rer (L	eagu	e) I V	etoke/	ele		11

FA Cup Third round League Cup Second round

Leeds

Manager	Uwe Rosler	
Ground	Elland Road	
Capacity	39,460	
Website	leedsunited.com	

SUMMER TRANSFERS IN: Charlie Horton, Lee Erwin, Sol Bamba, Chris Wood, Tom Adeyemi, Ross Turnbull.

OUT: Aidy White, Rudy Austin, Michael Tonge, Stuart Taylor, Alex Cairns, Daniel Atkinson, Luke Booker, Zac Thompson,

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 25-

Promotion: 10-1



LAST SEASON (Championship) Pos P W D L F A GD Pts 15 46 15 11 20 50 61 -11 56 Top scorer (League) M Antenucci

FA Cup League Cup Second round

Reading

Manager	Steve Clarke	
Ground	Madejski Stadium	
Capacity	24,161	
Website	readingfc.co.uk	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Orlando Sa, Stephen Quinn, Paul McShane, Jonathan Bond, Ali Al Habsi

OUT: Mikkel Andersen, Adam Federici, Alex Pearce, George McLennan, Jem Karacan, Danny Guthrie, Zat Knight, Ayegbeni Yakubu, Jure Travner, Stephen Kelly.

To win Championship: 33-1

Promotion: 11-1



Pos P W D L F A GD Pts 19 46 13 11 22 48 69 -21 50 Top scorers (League) S Cox G Murray

A Cup	Semi-finals
League Cup	Third round



CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER

9/1*



StanJames.com







Turn to the back page for our best bets for the season

Brentford

Manager	Marinus Dijkhuizen
Ground	Griffin Park
Capacity	12,763
Website	brentfordfc.co.uk

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Ryan Williams, Yoann Barbet, Konstantin Kerschbaumer, Andreas Bjelland, Josh McEachran, Philipp Hofmann, Lasse Vibe.

OUT: Richard Lee, Kevin O'Connor, Emmanuel Oyedele, Nick Proschwitz, Alfie Mawson, Tony Craig, Will Grigg, Tommy Smith.

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 12-1

Derby

Manager Ground

Capacity

Website



DAILY ECHO

LAST SEASON (Championship)

League Cup

Po	s P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
5	46	23	9	14	78	59	+19	78
То	p sco	rer (L	.eagu	e) A	Gray			16
ΕΛ	Cun			Th	ird ro	und		

Second round

Promotion: 4-1	Promotion:	4-1
----------------	------------	-----



dcfc.co.uk SUMMER TRANSFERS

Paul Clement

iPro Stadium

33,597

IN: Darren Bent, Alex Pearce, Scott Carson, Andreas Weimann, Chris Baird, Tom Ince, Jason Shackell.

OUT: Jamie Ward, Shaun Barke Zak Whitbread, Lee Naylor, Mark O'Brien, Rhys Sharpe, Ross Etheridge, Kelle Roos, Farrend Rawson, Conor Sammon, Raul Albentosa.

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 11-2



LAST SEASON (Championship) Pos P W D L F A GD Pts

ŏ	46	21	14	Ш	85	50	+29	
Top	p sco	rer (L	eagu	e) C I	Martir	1		18
FA	Cup			Fif	th rou	und		

Fifth round

League Cup

Midddlesbrough

Manager	Aitor Karanka		
Ground	Riverside Stadium		
Capacity	34,742		
Website	mfc.co.uk		

SUMMER TRANSFERS IN: Alex Baptiste, Stewart Downing

Diego Fabbrini

OUT: David Atkinson, Dean Whitehead, Emmanuel Ledesma, Seb Hines, Kieron Weledji, James Warnett, Ryan Brobbel.

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 13-2

Promotion: 9-4



Р	os P	W	D	L	F	Α	ĞD	Pts
4	46	25	10	11	68	37	+31	85
T	op scoi	rer (L	eagu	e)PE	Bamfo	rd		17
F	A Cup			Fit	th ro	und		
L	eague	Cup		Th	ird ro	und		

Rotherham

Manager	Steve Evans
Ground	New York Stadium
Capacity	12,021
Website	themillers.co.uk

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Aidy White, Joe Mattock, Lewis Buxton, Emmanuel Ledesma, Danny Collins, Tom Thorpe, Greg Halford, Grant Ward, Kelle Roos, Farrend Rawson, Chris Maguire

OUT: Tony Thompson, Mark Bradley, Peter Denton, Kari Arnason, Ben Pringle, Rob Milsom, Craig Morgan, Mat Sadler, Richard Brindley, Danny Rowe, Scott Loach, Conor Newton

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 100-1

Promotion: 40-1



LAST SEASON (Championship)

Po	s P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
21	46	11	16	19	46	67	-21	46
To	p sco	rer (L	eagu	e) M	Derby	shire		9
FA	Cup			Th	ird ro	und		

Second round

Brighton

Manager	Chris Hughton	
Ground	Amex Stadium	
Capacity	35,000	
Website	seagulls.co.uk	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

Akindayini, Niki Maenpaa, Gaetan Bong, Jack Harper

OUT: Craig Mackail-Smith, Kemy Agustien. Aaron Hughes, Vitalijs Maksimenko, Paddy McCourt, Shamir Fenelon, Bradley Barry, George Cole, Cameron Wiltshire, Danny Pappoe, Jimmy Muitt, Christian Walton

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 25-1

Promotion: 9-1



LAST SEASON (Championship)

Pos P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
20 46	10	17	19	44	54	-10	47
Top sco	rer (L	eagu	ie) J 1	Teixei	ra		6
FA Cup			Fo	urth i	round	d	
League	Cup		Fo	urth i	round	d	

Fulham

Manager	Kit Symons	
Ground	Craven Cottage	
Capacity	26,600	
Website	fulhamfc.com	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Ben Pringle, Andy Lonergan, Tom Cairney, Jazz Richards, Jamie O'Hara, Luke Garbutt.

OUT: Maarten Stekelenburg, Bryan Ruiz, Hugo Rodallega, Tim Hoogland, Gabor Kiraly, Chris David, Adil Chihi, Josh Passley, Solomon Sambou, Jonathan Buatu, Noe Baba, Tom Richards.

STAN JAMES ODDS To win Championship: 20-1

Promotion: 6-1



LAST SEASON (Championship)

FU	3 F	VV.	U		г	Α.	Uυ	P L
17	46	14	10	22	62	83	-21	52
То	o sco	rer (l	eagu	ie) R	МсСо	rmac	k	17
E4	C			г				

FA Cup	Fourth round
League Cup	Fourth round

MK Dons

Manager	Karl Robinson	
Ground	stadium: MK	
Capacity	22,000	
Website	mkdons.com	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Joe Walsh, Simon Church, Cody Cropper, Dale Jennings, Cristian Be

OUT: Dylan McLoughlin, Danny Green, Will Summerfield, George Baldock .

STAN JAMES ODDS To win Championship: 33-1

Promotion: 14-1



91 20

FA Cup	Second round
League Cup	Fourth round

Sheffield Wed

Manager	Carlos Carvalhal	
Ground	Hillsborough	
Capacity	39,814	
Website	swfc.co.uk	

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Darryl Lachman, Vincent Sasso, Jack Hunt, Lewis Price, Marco Matias, Ross Wallace, Alex Lopez, Lewis McGugan.

OUT: Lewis Buxton, Joe Mattock, Gary Madine, Kamil Zayatte, Rafael Floro, Dejan Kelhar, Matt Young, Giles Coke, Paul Corry, Rhys McCabe, Jacques Maghoma, Chris Kirkland, Chris Maguire.

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship:



LAST SEASON (Championship)

Pos P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
13 46	14	18	14	43	49	-6	60
Top sco	rer (L	eagu	e) A	Nuhiu			8

FA Cup	Third round
League Cup	Third round

Bristol City

Manager	Steve Cotterill	
Ground	Ashton Gate	
Capacity	13,414	
Website	bcfc.co.uk	

SUMMER TRANSFERS IN: Jonathan Kodjia.

OUT: Wade Elliott, Dave Richards, Jay Emmanuel-Thomas, Karleigh Osborne, Greg Cunningham.

STAN JAMES ODDS

Huddersfield

io will Championship. 22-1
Promotion: 13-2

Capacity	24,500			
Ground	John Smith's Stadium			
Manager	Chris Powell			

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Dean Whitehead, Jason Davidson, Kyle Dempsey, Martin Cranie, Jordy Hiwula. OUT: Anthony Gerrard, Martin Paterson Joe Murphy, Jonathan Stead, Conor Coady, Joe Wright, Oscar Gobern.

STAN JAMES ODDS

To win Championship: 50-1

Promotion: 20-1

Pos P	W	D	L	F	Α	G
16 46	13	16	17	58	75	-
Top sco	rer (L	.eagu	e) N	Wells		
FA Cup Third round						
League	Cup		Se	cond	roun	d

LAST SEASON (League name)

55

LAST SEASON (League One, champions)

 Pos P
 W
 D
 L
 F
 A
 GD
 Pts

 1
 46
 29
 12
 5
 96
 38
 +58
 99

Fourth round

First round

Top scorer (League) A Wilbraham

FA Cup

League Cup

Nottm Forest

Manager	Dougie Freedman				
Ground	City Ground				
Capacity	30,602				
Wahsita	nottinghamforest coluk				

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Tim Erlandsson, Matt Mills, Jamie Ward,

OUT: Dan Harding, Greg Halford, Jamie Mackie, Danny Collins, Louis Laing.

STAN JAMES ODDS

Promotion

To win Championship: 22-1

n: 13-2	

Wolves

Manager	Kenny Jackett			
Ground	Molineux			
Capacity	28,525			
Wehsite	wolves coluk			

SUMMER TRANSFERS

IN: Jed Wallace, Conor Coady, Sylvain Deslandes.

OUT: Leon Clarke , Tomasz Kuszczak, Jake Cassidy, Liam McAlinden, Sam Ricketts, Bakary Sako, Michael Jacobs.

STAN JAMES ODDS To win Championship: 16-1



 LAST SEASON (League name)

 Pos P
 W
 D
 L
 F
 A
 GD
 Pts

 14
 46
 15
 14
 17
 71
 69
 +2
 59

Third round

Third round

Top scorer (League) M Antonio

FA Cup

League Cup

LAST SEASON (League name)

LAST SEASON (League Haille)									
Po:	s P	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts	
7	46	22	12	12	70	56	+14	78	
Tot	Top scorer (League) B Sako 16								

FA Cup		Third round	
Loadilo C	un	Eirct round	



League Cup











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club news

'Lots of goals' the aim for Makienok

SIMON MAKIENOK has set himself a simple target after joining **Charlton** for this season – to score "lots of goals". The Danish forward, *right*, has moved to The Valley on loan from Serie A side Palermo.

He said: "I want to be the No.9

He said: "I want to be the No.9 where you score lots of goals and you're the target man up front.
English football is brilliant - I have always watched a lot of it at home and I have always wanted to play here."



Rush hails Rams' capture of Clement

DERBY chief executive Sam Rush reckons the Rams have bagged one of the best coaches in the world in securing Paul Clement as their manager this summer. Clement replaces Steve McClaren, who was given

Clement replaces Steve McClaren, who was of the boot after failing to reach the play-offs.

Clement was previously assistant to Carlo Ancelotti at Spanish giants Real Madrid. Rush said: "He is one of the most in-demand coaches in world football. He is hugely respected, has exceptional relationships throughout football and tremendous coaching experience at some of the very best clubs in Europe."

Fulham switch sounded right for Jazz

JAZZ RICHARDS had no hesistation in agreeing a permanent switch to **Fulham**, having played 14 times on loan for the Cottagers last season.

The Welsh right-back had the option of joining Aston Villa or Norwich, but felt a move back to the capital was right, having enjoyed his temporary stay last tarm so much

last term so much.

He said: "Knowing I only had a year left at Swansea, it was the right time to get some games.

"You could see the bonds I had with the lads here, and long may that continue."

Powell impressed by Dempsey threat

HUDDERSFIELD boss Chris Powell reckons midfielder Kyle Dempsey could go on to become a real star at the club. The Terriers paid Carlisle an undisclosed fee to lure the 19-year-old to West Yorkshire.

Powell said: "Kyle embodies the type of player that

Powell said: "Kyle embodies the type of player that fits with the club; someone who can come in and continue to develop.

"He carries a significant attacking threat. He's an

"He carries a significant attacking threat. He's an industrious player with good, technical attributes, ability in set-piece situations and, importantly, the desire to succeed."

McCarthy maintains play-off hope

MICK McCARTHY'S **Ipswich** suffered play-off disappointment last season losing to fierce rivals Norwich, then watching them win promotion - but the Tractor Boys boss would still love to be involved in them come the end of this campaign.

the end of this campaign.

McCarthy, right, said. "I'm a big fan of the play-off system, though my record in them is not great. The play-offs makes the League exciting."

Robinson relishes roller-coaster ride

MK DONS manager Karl Robinson is buzzing with excitement for his first season managing in the Championship. The Dons kick off the 2015-16 campaign away at Rotherham, before Preston and Bolton head to Milton Keynes.

Robinson said: "It will be harder to stay up than it was to get out of League One because we are coming up against some top managers and really talented players. We understand it's going to be difficult, but we've earned the right to be here and we've got to believe that we belong. Let the roller-coaster begin!"

Uwe wants heavy metal from Leeds

by Mark Walker

LEEDS' new head coach Uwe Rosler will be anxious his side can hit all the right notes as he bids to stamp his "heavy metal" brand of football on the club.

Rosler insists his favoured style is ready-made for Elland Road, but in truth any winning football would strike the right chord with fans who will be embarking on a 12th straight season outside the top flight.

The 46-year-old German was unveiled as Neil Redfearn's successor in May, and spoke of how he intends Leeds to play.

"It's very much influenced on the German way," said Rosler, who became the fifth head coach employed by owner Massimo Cellino inside 12 months.

"That is transition football, which is very quick into attack from defence.

"I'm interested in having a lot of quick attempts on goal and it is important for me where you win the ball.

"I play a high pressing game to force the opposition into mistakes and playing the ball into areas where we can attack quick.

"I like powerful, quick football. (Former Borussia Dortmund manager) Jurgen Klopp says 'heavy metal', so that sort of football."

Leeds finished 15th in the Championship last season as on-field exploits were once again overshadowed by controversies off it.

Success under Rosler this season and beyond will depend to a large degree on whether chairman Cellino can defy what comes naturally and maintain a low profile.

The Football League is waiting for court documents from Italy following Cellino's latest conviction for not paying VAT on an imported Range Rover and must answer more tax evasion charges in October. But since the Italian served

his four-month Football League ban for a previous tax conviction and returned to office at Elland Road in May there have been encouraging signs at Elland Road.

Former Hull owner Adam Pearson has arrived as Cellino's right-hand man, Stuart Hayton appointed as new club secretary and Martyn Glover as head of recruitment.

Pearson could prove to be Leeds' best summer signing, while assistant head coach Rob Kelly, Julian Darby and Richard Hartis form Rosler's new coaching staff.

Cellino dug deep to bring in striker Chris Wood, for whom Leicester will receive up to £3million, defender Sol Bamba was signed on a permanent basis after last season's loan spell from Palermo and Tom Adeyemi has joined from Cardiff to beef-up the midfield.

Scottish striker Lee Erwin and American goalkeeper Charlie Horton have also boosted Rosler's squad and, if impressive homegrown youngsters Sam Byram, Alex Mowatt, Lewis Cook and Charlie Taylor continue to flourish, there are good reasons for optimism at Elland Road.

A play-off challenge is unlikely given the competition, but Rosler's target of a top-10 finish does not appear that unreasonable.

Rosler put his troops through their paces in an intensive pre-season, and he added: "We're not only preparing for the Burnley game, we're preparing for 10 months. The Burnley game is important, but it's not our last game.

"We have to understand that we have to be where we want to be in May."



Uwe Rosler became Leeds' fifth coach inside 12 months

Bruce's bonus for Tigers

HULL boss Steve Bruce is as determined to succeed as ever, despite his side's relegation from the Premier League this summer.

Bruce, who has been in charge at the KC Stadium since 2012, admits he feared for his job. He said: "I am fortunate because most managers would have paid the penalty after relegation. "I had a chat with the

owner, Assem Allam, and I wanted to know if he still wanted me to carry on. But there was another question too - whether I had the enthusiasm to fight in the Championship again against

all the big clubs there. In the end, I thought to myself, why not – if the owner still wants me to carry on, which he does, I will.

"We've won promotion together before and reached an FA Cup final, but this will be like starting all over again."



Hull boss Steve Bruce











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club news



Preston defender Paul Huntington celebrates his goal during his side's League One play-off final win

restor

by Liam Blackburn

PAUL HUNTINGTON insists Preston will start the season free from expectation, but keen to avoid the inconsistency that has plagued others in one of Europe's most unpredictable leagues.

North End return to the second tier for the first time since 2011, having finally laid their play-off hoodoo to rest at the 10th time of asking in May when Jermaine Beckford's hat-trick - along with a Huntington effort – saw them defeat Swindon at Wembley.

With most of that squad back in tow - and loanees Paul Gallagher and Beckford now playing on permanent contracts the Lilywhites' squad appears strong enough to at least avoid a relegation scrap

The extent of Preston's aims have vet to be discussed inside the corridors of Deepdale, with Huntington instead just keen to focus on finding the regular form that kept them in the promotion picture for most of last term.

"We haven't set any targets for the season," said the

27-year-old centre-back. "We've had a meeting as a squad and we've just said that

we'll try to go as far as we can.
"We won't be thinking about the end of the season and where we might be.

"I am sure we will be a confident group and looking to carry on the winning habit from last season.

"We have a nucleus in terms of the spine of the team. We've managed to keep those players together and, hopefully, with a couple of new additions to add to what we have got, we will go into the League with a lot of confidence

"I think we will enjoy being up against a number of big

clubs, but not forgetting that we are a big club as well."

Although Huntington is yet

to ply his trade in the Championship, manager Simon Grayson is vastly experienced at that level having enjoyed four promotions out of League One.

For newcomer Huntington, though, the key will be avoiding the up-and-down form that has been commonplace for many clubs in the division in recent seasons.

"From the outside looking in over the past few years, it seems to be a bit of an inconsistent division," added

the defender.
"You've got only the top six who seem to be consistent and the rest seem to be able to beat each other on any

"We will just be looking for that consistency and taking it from there.

Karanka relishes Downing's return

AITOR KARANKA can hardly believe Middlesbrough have convinced Stewart
Downing to drop down from the Premier League to return to his hometown club. The 30-year-old England international, *left*, played almost 250 games for Boro

before leaving for Aston Villa in 2009, and returns after spells at Liverpool and West Ham. Karanka said: "It's an amazing signing for us. He's more than just a fine player."

Forest pair are closing on comebacks

MATTY FRYATT and Chris Cohen will miss the start of Nottingham Forest's season, but could be back in

action by September.
Striker Fryatt, missing for long spells during the cond half of last season because of a persistent Achilles problem, is expected to resume training at the beginning of August, but it is still likely to take at least a month to build up his fitness. Captain Cohen is a little further away as he looks to bounce back from the third major knee injury of his career.

Reading owner eyes a play-off push

READING'S new owner Narin Niruttinanon has set his

sights on a push for the play-offs.

Niruttinanon, who owns 50 per cent of the Royals following his Thai consortium's takeover from Anton Zingarevich, said: "I may be too optimistic, but I think with the team we have, and we have less injuries, I don't see why we can't aim for the play-offs. We need to aim high and I really hope we can do well. Last season, besides the FA Cup, the team's form in the League was not that good. Early on we had so many injuries so the form was up and down."

10-game ban for Millers' Broadfoot

ROTHERHAM will start the season without defender

Kirk Broadfoot as he serves a 10-game ban. An independent FA hearing deemed the Scot had "used abusive and/or insulting words" towards

Wigan's James McClean.
Broadfoot, 30, was also fined £7,500 and ordered to complete an education programme.

The ban is a record for verbal abuse in English football, beating the eight games handed to Luis Suarez when he was found guilty of racially abusing Patrice Evra in December 2011.

Wallace has promotion on the mind

ROSS WALLACE hopes his move to Sheffield Wednesday can see him complete a hat-trick of promotions to the Premier League.
The 30-year-old winger, *left*, has

made the step up before with

Sunderland and Burnley.

He said: "This club has big ambitions to get to the Premier League and I want to help achieve that. I've got a lot of experience, especially in the Championship. With three teams, I've been promoted twice.'

McCarey can play despite drug ban

WOLVES goalkeeper Aaron McCarey is available for the start of the season despite being given a four-month ban after failing an out-of-competition

McCarey tested positive for a non-performance enhancing substance in April. The ban was only imposed in August, but as it was backdated he remains eligible to play.

He said: "I genuinely have no idea how the trace of

the drug entered my system, but I have accepted full responsibility and I apologise."



We will be a confident group and looking to carry on the winning habit from last season

- Paul Huntington

ondon calling for QPR's Ramsey

QPR boss Chris Ramsey is relishing a London derby on the opening day of the season.

Relegated Rangers' first game back in the Championship is a trip south of the Thames to face

Charlton at The Valley. Ramsey said: "It's a great opening-day fixture for us. A short trip to one of our local rivals makes it really accessible for the supporters. which is vitally important.

"The R's fans are massive for us - we're going to need them every step of the way this season - and I'm sure they will turn up in huge numbers at The Valley.

Rangers also face two more local derbies, against Brentford and Fulham, with all three west London clubs in the same division for the first time since 1949.

Ramsey added: "These are the games the supporters look forward to and, as management and players,

we're no different. We know the rivalries that exist and, for that reason alone, they are four games to

really embrace.
"The fact that all three of us are in the same division for the first time in so many vears will only add to the drama, I'm sure."









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betting



8-1 Boro to put aside final woe

by Lenny Miller

AITOR KARANKA has not dwelt on play-off final heartache as he plots a return to the Premier League for Middlesbrough this season.

Boro came up just short in their automatic promotion bid, but picked themselves up to brush aside Brentford in the play-offs, only to freeze on the Wembley stage in a 2-0 defeat to Norwich.

But there are plenty of

But there are plenty of reasons for Boro fans to feel positive about their chances.

They have kept the bulk of their squad – with the exception of Patrick Bamford joining Crystal Palace on loan from Chelsea. Albert Adomah, Lee Tomlin, Adam Clayton, Ben Gibson and Grant Leadbitter were all huge players for Boro last term and will be joined by Karanka has financial clout to mount title charge after play-off final defeat

some eye-catching names.
Owner Steve Gibson is really splashing the cash, and has bought local lad Stewart Downing for £5.5million from Premier League West Ham and is in pursuit of prolific Blackburn striker Jordan Rhodes – albeit for a potentially extortionate sum.

Alex Baptiste (Bolton) and

Alex Baptiste (Bolton) and Chelsea loanee Tomas Kalas will bolster the defence, while Uruguay international Christian Stuani is a real coup.

A notoriously difficult division to get out of, the feeling is the Championship is a little less competitive this term than previous seasons and Boro can take advantage of the troubles recently-relegated lay-off final defeat

To win League

Derby	6-1	Ipswich	16-1
M'Boro	8-1	N Forest	16-1
Hull	17-2	Sheff Wed	16-1
QPR	14-1	Bristol C	16-1
Burnley	14-1	Fulham	18-1
Wolves	14-1	Blackburn	18-1
Brentford	14-1	Stan	James

QPR and Hull are mired in. Paul Clement's Derby, meanwhile, are favourites to win the title, but have tried and failed on too many occasions in past years for punters to have real faith in them at 6-1.

Karanka has got the backing, and Boro's performances last term suggest the Spaniard can deliver this time around. Of the promoted teams, Bristol City are probably best-placed to challenge the likes of Nottingham Forest, Wolves, Ipswich and Burnley for a top-six berth, while Preston's strike duo of Joe Garner and Jermaine Beckford should ensure a top-half finish for Simon Gravson's men.

Simon Grayson's men.
MK Dons are likely to
struggle without the financial
muscle to replace Dele Alli,
and could be in a relegation
fight with Rotherham,
Huddersfield and – potentially
– Fulham and Cardiff.

In League One, Wigan can stop the rot of recent relegations with the title while, in League Two, the momentum of promotion from the Conference could lead to Barnet or Bristol Rovers moving up another division.



Stewart Downing's signing is a real statement of intent



DAILY ECHO

Non league FOOTBALL





Hill backs Salisbury to clinch Wessex League title

RICHARD Hill does not know too much about the Sydenhams Wessex League but, on Tuesday's evidence, he reckons Steve Claridge's Salisbury should walk

The Eastleigh boss fielded youngsters and trialists for much of their 1-1 friendly draw at the Ray Mac, but he acknowledged that Salisbury were a "decent

"He (Claridge) has got some good players and they've just taken Callum Hart back as player-coach," he said. "I'd be

very surprised if they don't win the Wessex League."

Welsh defender Hart, 29 - who previously played for the old Salisbury City
– has swapped life in the Conference South with Sutton United to rejoin his beloved Whites.

He will also work at Claridge's Football Foundation at Moneyfields, coaching youngsters and doing his UEFA badges.

Former AFC Bournemouth man Hart, left, said: "I'm still disappointed about what happened before (at Salisbury City) and it's basically like coming

"To learn under Steve is an exciting prospect as he's played at the highest level and has very good knowledge of

"It's a family club which is close to me I've lived in Salisbury for four years and it's just a really friendly club. Sutton was great as well and I wish them all the best, but the opportunity arose to come back to Salisbury. "I've taken a big pay cut to come back.

Club snaps up vital lifesaver for use on and off the pitch

Partnership of FA and BHF help to fund defibrillator

FAREHAM Town and their local community have been equipped with a lifesaving defibrillator through a partnership between the Football Association and the British **Heart Foundation.**

More than 900 defibrillators have been made available to clubs at Steps 1-7 of the National League System and the Women's Super League to help prevent lives being needlessly lost following a cardiac arrest. Two thirds of the cost of Fareham's

defibrillator was provided by the FA and BHF, with long-term Reds supporter Charles Gale, of Charles Gale Menswear, meeting the other third.

Paul Proctor, secretary of the Sydenhams Premier Division club, said: "This vital piece of equipment could prove to be the difference be-tween life and death and it's a welcome addition to the club and its community.'

Fareham's players, staff and fans all have access to the equipment and the club was also given information about the BHF's Call Push rescue training kit which includes everything needed to learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) in less than half an hour.

Awareness of sudden cardiac arrests was heightened when former England under-21 star Fabrice Muamba collapsed on the pitch at White Hart Lane in March, 2012.

Muamba lent his support to the BHF's 'Nation of Lifesavers' campaign earlier this year which calls for all young people to be taught lifesaving CPR skills and defibrillator awareness at secondary school.
"The FA and BHF have made it

possible for us to become part of the 'Nation of Lifesavers' which aims to improve the UK's poor cardiac arrest survival rates," added Proctor.

"Along with performing CPR, a defibrillator is a vital step that can



Fareham's Dave Mundy, left, and Paul Proctor.

help increase a person's chance of

survival."
The BHF has already helped place 13,000 defibrillators in communities around the UK. Clubs can find out more information by visiting bhf.org. uk/football

• SYDENHAMS Premier Division

outfit Andover Town are looking to recruit a part-time commercial manager. This is a paid post to start as soon as possible.

Town also need volunteers to help with the turnstiles, tea bar, club bar and stewarding on matchdays at the Portway Stadium. Stuart Barlow is the man to contact on 07807 194770.

• ANDY Graves has taken on the role of goalkeeping coach with Hythe & Dibden of the Sydenhams Division One. The experienced Graves lists Scunthorpe, Boston United, Stirling, Dorchester Town and Lymington Town among his former clubs.

FIXTURES

FIX IOHES

TODAY (AUGUST 1)
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE
PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Baffins Milton
Rovers v Bush Hill, Clanfield v
Hedge End Rangers, Liphook
Utd v Locks Heath, Liss Athletic
v Hamble Club, Otterbourne v
Paulsgrove, OK Southampton v
Headley Utd, Stockbridge v Inifinity,
Winchester Castle v Fleetlands.
FRIENDLIES: Eastleigh v Barnet,
Salisbury v AFC Totton, AFC
Aldermaston v Andover New
Street, AFC Portchester v AFC
Bournemouth XI, Bashley v New
Milton Town (David Jose Trophy),
Brockenhurst v Amesbury Town,
Cowes Sports v Petersheld Cowes Sports v Petersfield Town, Downton v Fareham Town, Fast Preston v Alresford Town. East Presson V Airestora Iown, Gillingham Town v Christchurch, Portland Utd v Chickerell Utd, Roffey v AFC Portchester, Tadley Calleva v Henley Town, US Portsmouth v Bournemouth Poppies, Whitchurch Utd v Fleet Town

Town. Sunday, August 2 FRIENDLY: Saints v RCD Espanyol

FA COMMUNITY SHIELD: Chelsea v Arsenal (Wembley 3.00) Monday, August 3 FRIENDLIES: Folland Sports v

FHIENDLIES: Folland Sports v
Gosport Borough, Team Solent v
Fleet Town.
Tuesday, August 4
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE
PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: (6.45pm kickoffs) Baffins Milton Rovers v

ous) patiffis Million Hovers V
Liphook Utd, Otterbourne v Infinity,
QK Southampton v Locks Heath,
Stockbridge v Hamble Club,
Winchester Castle v Headley Utd.
FRIENDLIES: Blackfield & Langley
v Totton & Eling, Christchurch
v Wimborne Town (Gerry Page
Troophy).

New Milton v Bemerton HH, Sholing v Petersfield Town, Swanage Town & Herston v Bournemouth Poppies. Wednesday, August 5
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE Premier Division: (6.45pm kick-offs) Bush Hill v Hedge End Rangers, Clanfield v Fleetlands, Colden Common v Paulsgrove, Liss Athletic v Overton Utd (7.45). Friday, August 7 SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: Fawley v Bournemouth Poppies, Folland

Sports v Bemerton HH. Division One: Christchurch v Hythe & Dibden

& Diloen.
Saturday, August 8
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Aldershot v Gateshead, Altrincham
v Forest Green Rovers, Barrow v
Dover Athletic, Boreham Wood v
FC Halifax, Bromley v Wrexham,
Chester v Braintee, Kidderminster v Grimsby, Lincoln v Cheltenham, Southport v Eastleigh, Torquay v Macclesfield, Tranmere v Woking, Welling v Guisele VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Bishop's Stortford v Havant & Waterlooville, Gosport Borough v St Albans City, SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Sholing, Brockenhurst v Soliphur Course Sport v

v Sholing, Brockenhurst v Salisbury, Cowes Sports v Alresford Town (2.00), Hamworthy Utd v Fareham Town, Horndean v Blackfield & Langley, Moneyfields v Andover Town, Newport IoW v Verwood Town, Whitchurch Utd v Lymington Town.
Division One: Alton Town v Pewsey Vale, Amesbury Town v AFC Stoneham, East Cowes Vics v Andover New Street, Fleet Spurs v Portland Utd, Lawerstock & Ford v New Milton Town, Eingwood Town v US Portsmouth, Romsey Town v Tadley Calleva, Totton & Eling v Downton.

Downton.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE
PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Colden Common
v Baffins Milton Rovers, Bush Hill
v Headley Utd, Fleetlands v Liss
Athletic, Liphook Utd v Hamble
Club, Otterbourne v Hedge End
Penners Courton v Clerkield Rangers, Overton v Clanfield,
Paulsgrove v Stockbridge, QK
Southampton v Infinity, Winchester Castle v Locks Heath

DAILY ECHO 26 Saturday, August 1, 2015

Conference National Transfers

from page 11

Grimsby Town

In: Josh Gowling (Kidderminster) Free Marcus Marshall (Morecambe) Free Richard Tait (Cambridge United) Free Danny East (Portsmouth) Free Nathan Arnold (Cambridge United) Free Padraig Amond (Morecambe) Free Andy Monkhouse (Bristol Rovers) Free Omar Bogle (Solihull) Undisclosed Andy Warrington (Buxton) Free Out: Carl Magnay (Hartlepool United) Free Paul Walker (Spalding United) Free Ross Hannah (Chester) Free Lenell John-Lewis (Newport County) Free Patrick McLaughlin (Gateshead) Free Paul Bignot (Keflavik IF) Free Nick Draper (Alfreton) Free Released: Caine Winfarrah, Hamish Watson, Lewis Bemrose, Christian Jolley, Ellis Humble,

Guiselev

In: Adam Lockwood (Oldham Athletic) Free Will Hatfield (Halifax Town) Free Rob Atkinson (Accrington Stanley) Free Tom Craddock (Portsmouth) Free Out: Alex Johnson (Stalybridge Celtic) Free Jack Stockdill (Harrogate Railway) Free Released: Danny Ellis

Kidderminster

In: Joe Clarke (Wrexham) Free Kelvin Langmead (Ebbsfleet United) Loan Lathaniel Rowe-Turner (Alfreton) Free Alex Palmer (West Brom) Loan Out: Jas Singh (Gloucester) Free Ahmed Obeng (Hednesford) Free Jamie Grimes (Dover) Free Callum Gittings (Solihull) Free Josh Gowling (Grimsby Town) Free Akwasi Asante (Solihull) Free Josh O'Keefe (Altrincham) Free Danny Wright (Cheltenham Town) Free Danny Lewis (Solihull) Free
Jack Byrne (Solihull) Free
Peleased: Lee Hughes, Joslain Mayebi, Haydn
Whitcombe, Kevin Nicholson

Lincoln City

In: Liam Hearn (Mansfield Town) Free Bradley Wood (Alfreton) Free Lee Beevers (Mansfield Town) Free Luke Waterfall (Wrexham) Free Matt Sparrow (Scunthorpe United) Free Craig Stanley (Eastleigh) Free
Greg Tempest (Notts County) Free
Callum Howe (Scunthorpe Untied) Free
Jack Muldoon (Rochdale) Free Chris Bush (Welling) Free Matt Rhead (Mansfield Town) Undisclosed Out: Jake Caprice (Woking) Free Jordan Burrow (Halifax Town) Free Sean Newton (Wrexham) Free Delano Sam-Yorke (Forest Green) Free Hamza Bencherif (Halifax Town) Free Tom Miller (Carlisle United) Free Ben Tomlinson (Barnet) Free Tony Diagne (Macclesfield) Loan Released: Todd Jordan, Tyrell Waite, Arnaud Mendy, David Preece

Macclesfield

In: Jack Sampson (Morecambe) Free Neill Byrne (Telford United) Free Curtis Havnes-Brown (Lowestoft) Free Theo Bailey-Jones (Wrexham) Free Tony Diagne (Lincoln City) Loan Kristian Dennis (Stockport) Loan Kristian Dennis (stockport) Loan
Out: Will Haining (Ashton United) Free
Scott Barrow (Newport County) Free
Waide Fairhurst (Torquay) Free
Hys Taylor (Newport County) Free
Adriano Moke (Wrexham) Free Released: James Thorne, Conor O'Keefe Malachi Lavelle-Moore, Jack Disney, Milan Thompson, James Thorne

Southport

In: Andy Wright (Morecambe) Free Andy Coughlin (Wrexham) Free Jamie Allen (Fleetwood Town) Free Andrai Jones (Gateshead) Free Adam Blakeman (Ayr United) Free Peter Cavanagh (Altrincham) Free Out: Dom Collins (Fylde) Free Micah Evans (Stockport) Free Luke George (Chester) Free Andrew Mitchell (Crusaders) Free Released: *Peter Cavanagh (Coaching role at Everton)

Torquay

In: Tyrone Marsh (Ebbsfleet United) Free Waide Fairhurst (Macclesfield) Free Exodus Geohaghon (Whitehawk) Free Shepherd Murombedzi (Reading) Free continued on facing page

Brian McIntyre's remarkable footballing life ...

Name-dropping in

HE'S travelled the world and played alongside football superstars - but it's unlikely you would have heard of him.

Brian McIntyre can be found at non-league grounds across Hampshire and Dorset and, with him, the unassuming character carries with him tales that will leave you spellbound, writes PETER HOWARD.

If there was a World Championships in name-dropping, then McIntyre would be champion

Despite only flirting with the idea of becoming a professional foot-baller, McIntyre has played alongside more world-class players than majority of pros.

Pierre Littbarski, a World Cup winner in 1990 with West Germany, Dutch legend Rene van de Kerkhof, and Arsenal icon Liam Brady make are some of the best players McIntyre has played with, in his opinion.

However, that would be leaving out Kevin Keegan, Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Geoff Hurst, Pat Jennings, Roger Hunt, Eddie Gray, Jurgen Klinsmann, Mario Kempes, Martin Peters, Martin Chivers, Martin Peters, Martin Chivers, Frank Worthington, Mick Mills, Ossie Ardiles, Alan Ball, Peter Shilton, Alan Kennedy, Gerry Armstrong, Mark Lawrenson, Phil Parkes, Russell Osman, Edu and Trevor Cherry. To name just a few.

His ultimate favourite, though, is Gordon Strachan.

Globe trotting

But how did this all come about? Well, McIntyre's stories of travel-ling around the globe with World Cup winners and football legends have been written down in his book Have Boots Will Travel.

The retiree, who lives in Verwood, has always considered publishing his memories but only came to the decision to do so when a dear friend was in need.

Former non-league footballer Andy Culliford was diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND) in

Culliford, a former Bashley, Wimborne and Poole Town favourite, has seen the non-league community gather round as he battles the degenerative disease.

With life-saving drugs at a cost of £180 a day, McIntyre wanted to do his part to help Culliford.

At that point, he decided it was time to share his epic story – which includes a murder trial at Sierra Leone diamond mine, national service in Singapore, organising charity matches in Asia and a whole lot more – with proceeds from the book's sales going to the Andy Culliford Support Fund.

It's just a complete tragedy, said McIntyre about Culliford "Everything I make from the book not for me, it's for Andy Culliford.

"The guy is unbelievable. He says he's aiming to become 40 - he's 37years-old at the moment.
"It's just tragic. He was a super fit

guy.
"The guy is just an inspiration. "Andy's a lovely guy. I wanted to do something for him."

McIntyre was put in contact with all those big name players through his friend John Smith, the former QPR, Leyton Orient and Leicester City secretary.

The first occasion saw him travel out to Singapore, and from there things took off.

When I got on the plane to leave,

neither Geoff Hurst nor Jennings were there," McIntyre.
"The plane was taxiing out onto

the runway and I was there with two empty seats.

Big trouble

"I thought I was in big trouble as I'd told the Singapore Cricket Club (the hosts of the charity match) that I would bring two big names to help raise the profile of the game.
"Anyway, the two little so-and-

sos walked up the aisle and said 'I bet you thought we weren't com-

ing'. "They were having drinks with

the airline.
"It went really well that year and the following year I took two more out and the year after that they wanted 11 players.

"After the first occasion it was

never a problem for me getting good players because they'd had such a great time out in Singapore."

To find out more, or order the book, visit www.havebootswilltravel.co.uk or email Brian on phuket35@hotmail.com



Brian McIntyre's remarkable footballing life ...

aid of a great friend





FUND RAISER: Brian McIntyre, right of picture, with (from left) Taffy Richardson, Harry Redknapp and Andy Culliford at the launch of McIntyre's book. Above right – Andy Culliford with daughter Isla at his benefit game at Poole Town in 2014.

Community rallies round for Andy

BRIAN McIntyre is raising money for the Andy Culliford Support Fund through the proceeds of his new book, *Have Boots Will Travel.*

Andy Culliford, a former nonleague footballer with Bashley, Wimborne and Poole Town, was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2011.

The football community in Hampshire and Dorset have since gathered round him to help fund life-saving medicines that cost £180 a day.
Culliford, a father of one from

Culliford, a father of one from Poole, continues to battle the degenerative disease, which there is no cure for.

McIntyre recently launched his book that follows his travels across the planet playing with world-class footballers in charity games.

He only decided to pen his memories from playing in Asia with legends of the beautiful game to help raise funds for Culliford's cause.

Culliford has called on the support of former team-mate and QPR and England star Charlie Austin



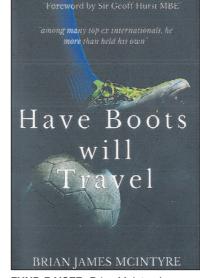
FLASHBACK: Andy Culliford in action for Wimborne.

as well as ex-Saints, Bournemouth and Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp to help raise cash.

"The word courage is used far too often in a situation where it is not warranted," said McIntyre.

"The courage, dignity and strength of character Andy is showing in fighting motor neurone disease has for me and many others, been humbling to witness as he is held in high regard by all who know him."

Donations can be made to the Andy Culliford Support Fund at the NatWest account 46136738 sort code 52-41-37.



FUND RAISER: Brian McIntyre's recently released autobiography.

Conference National Transfers

from facing page

Dan Butler (Portsmouth) Free James Hurst (Hednesford) Undisclosed Nathan Smith (Port Vale) Loan Bayan Fenwick (Peacehaven) Fre Out: Martin Rice (Truro City) Free Aaron Downes (Cheltenham Town) Free

Krystian Pearce (Mansfield Town

Aaron Dawson (Truro City) Free Duane Ofori-Acheampong (Dover) Free

Jordan Chapell (Chester) Free Ryan Bowman (Gateshead) Undisclosed Released: Mickey Parcell, Coutney Cameron, Elliot Benyon, Thomas Cruise, Dale Tonge

Tranmere Rovers

In: Jay Harris (Wrexham) Free Martin Riley (Mansfield Town) Free Scott Davies (Fleetwood Town) Free

Liam Hogan (Fleetwood Town) Free Ritchie Sutton (Mansfield Town)

Free James Norwood (Forest Green) Free

Andy Mangan (Shrewsbury Town) Free

Lois Maynard (Halifax Town) Free Out: Lee Molyneux (Morecambe) Free

Max Power (Wigan Athletic) Free lan Hume (Atletico de Kolkata) Free Marc Laird (Yeovil Town) Free Adam Dugdale (Morecambe) Free Danny Holmes (Newport County)

Owain Fon Williams (Inverness) Free

Released: Peter Brezovan, Josh Thompson, Kayode Odejayi, George Donnelly, Rob Taylor, Chris Shuker, Jason Koumas

Welling

In: Sahr Kabba (Gloucester) Free Ricky Wellard (Sutton United) Free Harry Osborne (Charlton Athletic)

Kevin Lokko (Colchester United)

Tom King (Millwall) Loan Georgre Porter (Sutton United) Free Out: Dominic Vose (Wrexham) Free Joe Healy (Maidstone United) Free Chris Bush (Lincoln City) Free Jake Gallagher (Aldershot) Free Jamal Fyfield (Wrexham) Free

Woking

In: Ismail Yakubu (Newport County)

Godfrey Poku (Telford United) Free Jake Caprice (Lincoln City) Free Nick Hamann (Braintree) Free Out: Josh Payne (Eastleigh) Free James Clarke (Bristol Rovers) Free Joe McNerney (Crawley Town) Free

Wrexham

In: Kayden Jackson (Tamworth) Exchange Sean Newton (Lincoln City) Free Adam Smith (Halifax Town) Free Cameron Belford (Swindon Town)

Adriano Moke (Macclesfield) Free Javan Vidal (Tarmvorth) Free Jamal Fyfield (Welling) Free Lee Fowler (Nuneaton) Free Dominic Vose (Welling) Free James Gray (Accrington Stanley)

Mason Watkins (Stoke City) Loan Out: Theo Bailey-Jones (Macclesfield) Free Neil Ashton (Barrow) Free Dean Keates (Rhyl) Free Luke Waterfall (Lincoln City) Free Anthony Stephens (Bala Town)

Jay Harris (Tranmere Rovers) Free Andy Bishop (Halifax Town) Free Elliott Durrell (Tamworth) Free Kyle Storer (Cheltenham Town)

Andy Coughlin (Southport) Free Joe Clarke (Kidderminster) Free Steve Tomassen (Tamworth) Exchange Louis Moult (Motherwell) Undisclosed Released: Ross Weaver, Sean Smith, Nicky Rushton

DAILY ECHO AND SPORTS PINK - BEST FOR NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

28 **DAILY ECHO** Saturday, August 1, 2015



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MISSING Bengal cat ("Nala")



Last seen on Brookvale Road (collar found), Highfield, on the morning of Wednesday 29th July 2015.

Please check sheds and garages and neighbours' outbuildings if away.

She has been neutered. A reward is available for her safe return.

Please contact 07804 329451 with any information.



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30 PINE Saturday, August 1, 2015

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015









Joe Weatherley batting for St Cross Symondians (Pic by Roy Honeybone)

No ordinary Joe

JOE Weatherley has impressed Hampshire director of cricket Giles White by responding to his England Under-19 omission with two centuries three days.

The opening batsman captained the U19s in Australia to a creditable draw while making 68 in Perth four months ago, only to be left out of the squad for next week's return fixture at Durham.

Hampshire duo Tom Alsop and Brad Taylor will both be involved and Mason Crane was also in the original 16-man squad (the leg-spinner's Royal London One-Day Cup involvement takes priority next week).

But Weatherley's response has been impressive, *writes Simon Walter*.

He made two centuries in three days for the 2nd XI this week, having already scored a hundred in a threeday win against Sussex earlier this

month.
The 18 year-old completed a stellar July by making 111 and 150 as Glamorgan were beaten at The Ageas Bowl in the Second Eleven Trophy and the Second Eleven Championship.

White said: "How a player responds to adversity says a lot about their character and the way Joe has reacted is very encouraging.

"It's tough when you get left out of a side. But the way he has responded bodes very well for the future. He just keeps piling on the runs!

keeps piling on the runs!
"The bottom line is that that is what batsmen are paid to do, to work out a



Joe Weatherley in action for Hampshire's 2nd XI (Pic by Roy Honeybone)

method that gets runs

"That's the case with Joe. He's a typical opening bat. He has a good method, is well organised and can bat time.

"He's more of Championship-type batsman but he's more than just a four-day player."

Weatherley also captained England

U19s for most of their 3-2 one-day series defeat against Australia in Perth back in April.

He was left out of the fifth and final rubber, which England won, after a disappointing return with the bat (63 runs at 15.75).

But it is an area of his game that is improving.

"Joe's one-day game is developing all the time as we saw with his 111 against Glamorgan on Tuesday," added White.

Weatherley faced 119 balls as Glamorgan were beaten by six wickets, with eight balls to spare.

He then shared in an opening stand of 163 from 39 overs with Sean Terry as Hampshire amassed 467-7 declared in the three-day game that followed.

His 150 came from 276 balls and including 15 fours.

Weatherley also shone with the ball. He took 3-20 from 16 overs with his improving off-spin as Glamorgan were bowled out for 152 in their first innings.

And he finished with match figures of 6-46 after taking 3-26 as Hampshire secured victory by an innings and 72 runs by bowling Glamorgan out for 143 yesterday.

"Joe's a run scorer but also a good all-round talent," continued White. "He's done a more than handy job with his off-spin.

"It's his second string but we've been encouraging him to bowl more for the academy and he's put in two very good all-round performances this week.

"The coaches have done a very good job with all of them, there's some very good cricket being played."

Following impressive performances from 18 year-old leg-spinner Crane and Lewis McManus this season, could we see more academy products handed their first-team debuts in the next two months? "Never say never," added White.

Hants' big weekend

HAMPSHIRE have named their squad for this weekend's Royal London

One-Day Cup double header. Eoin Morgan's Middlesex visit the Ageas Bowl today and Hampshire take on Glamorgan at Cardiff tomorrow determined to bounce back from their below-par performance against Kent on Thursday (both begin at 10.30am).

Slow left-armer Danny Briggs and Will Smith are added to the team that lost by five wickets at Cantarbury

five wickets at Canterbury.
Middlesex are looking for
their first win after one loss
and a no-result gained from
their opening two games.

Glamorgan are a point behind Hampshire after two games but only because they had two docked for producing a 'poor' pitch last season.

Jacques Rudolph's side enjoyed a thrilling three-wicket win over Kent in their second match of the competition, largely thanks to a Colin Ingram century and an unbeaten 94 from former Bournemouth CC star Chris

Hampshire (from): Adams, Carberry, Vince (c), Wheater, Gatting, Smith, Berg, Yasir Arafat, Wood, Briggs, Dawson, Crane, Edwards.



Hants celebrate a wicket

Hants to face Tahir

HAMPSHIRE are likely to be up against Imran Tahir when they play a potentially crucial final LV County Championship match of the season against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

The former Hampshire legspinner has replaced the injured Ben Hilfenhaus as Notts' overseas player.

South Africa international Tin, 36, will miss Notts' One-Day Cup match against Hampshire in the final round of group games on August 19, when Dan Christian is likely to deputise.

to deputise.

But he will be available for the last month of the season, which ends with Notts hosting his former county from September 22-25.

Tahir took 130 wickets at 25.46 in 29 first-class matches for Hampshire from

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015









Chris Rogers bats during Australia's tour match at The Spitfire Ground, Kent.

Ashes star helps Hants rookie Tom

Hampshire youngster Tom Alsop has picked the brain of Chris Rogers as part of his preparations to face the next generation of Australian talent with England's Under-19s in **Durham next week.**

Alsop, a 19-year-old left-hander who is in his second summer with the England team, played alongside Rogers, Mitchell Marsh and Peter Nevill on the Isle of Wight in June when the Aussies were looking for some practice before their Ashes

He made 75 against a bowling attack including Ryan Harris - who was still aiming to play in the Ashes series himself - while Rogers lasted only six balls in his first innings since being concussed on Australia's tour of West Indies.

"I was fortunate enough to be on his side and it was a great oppor-tunity to talk to him," Alsop explained. "He's obviously the best at what he does - his form at Test level has been so consistent. He's a credit to the game really, he's been fantastic in all the teams he's played in, a master of batting time and getting



Tom Alsop

The chat with 'Buck' does not seem to have done any harm, as Alsop followed 195 for Hampshire's second team against Sussex earlier this month with a tidy 68 in the Under-19s warm-up match against a Unicorns attack led by Graham Onions in Loughborough.

"It's nice to be back in the Three Lions," added Alsop, who missed out on selection for the Under-19s tour of Australia last winter despite scoring a century in the home one-day series against South Af-

"It was a shame in the winter but I went out to Durban thanks to our

coach Dale Benkenstein which was a great experience.
"Sarge [Andy Hurry, the Under-

19s coach] dropped it on us in our team meeting on Wednesday night that we'd be facing Graham Onions, and obviously to face a bowler like that is going to give us good prep before the Test.

'It was the first time I'd faced him, and facing a bowler like that makes you get the best out of your game. It's nice to get a few runs under your belt before hopefully playing in the Test match next week.
"Obviously the country at the mo-

ment is all behind the main team up in Edgbaston so to play against the Australians in any sport is a great rivalry. It's a pretty exciting

Brad Taylor is also in the England squad for the four-day match at the Emirates ICG, which starts on Tuesday.

Australia have brought a strong squad including the highly-rated Jake Doran, who also played in that Isle of Wight fixture, and Ian Healy's wicketkeeping son Tom.

They are coached by the former England batsman Graeme Hick, while Greg Chappell is the head of talent identification.

Crane made available to Hampshire

MASON Crane has been made available to play for Hampshire instead of England Under-19s next

The leg-spin prodigy was included in a 16-man squad to play in next week's four-day 'Test' against Australia at Durham, along with Hampshire teammates Tom Alsop and Brad

But Hampshire's Royal London One-Day Cup matches, against Essex on Tuesday and Warwickshire at Edgbaston on Wednesday, take priority.

Director of cricket Giles White said: "It's good news, England felt that if he was playing for our first team it was better for Mason to be continuing with

"It's common sense and it gives England a chance to look at another player.'

Crane has been outstanding since breaking into Hampshire's first team. Such has been his impact that the One-Day Cup loss against Kent at Canterbury on Thursday was his first taste of defeat in six appearances since breaking into Hampshire's first

team three weeks ago. Bowling in the One-Day Cup is a difficult skill for any bowler but particularly spinners, with only four



Mason Crane (Neil Marshall pic)

fielders allowed outside the 30-vard circle during the non-powerplay overs.
Crane conceded 70 from ten overs

at Canterbury but still claimed two more big scalps in Sam Northeast and Sam Billings.

"He's been very good and has looked very comfortable, which is something you can never be sure of when a young player comes in because it's quite a step up," continued White.

"Some make the transition seamlessly, other take time but so far Mason has made that step without any issues at all."

White, once a promising leg-spinner himself, said: "It's the hardest skill in the game so it's really encouraging and bodes well for the future to have such an attacking leg-spinner."

Crane will be looking forward to playing in four big One-Day Cup matches in the next five days.

Middlesex visit the Ageas Bowl today play Glamorgan, Hampshire are at home to Essex (Tuesday) and away to Warwickshire (Wednesday).

DAILY ECHO 32 Saturday, August 1, 2015

LOCAL CRICKET



Regional pride up for grabs

SOUTH Wilts will need to play out of their skins to make any impression in tomorrow's **ECB NatWest Club t20** regional finals at Wimbledon

Not since Bournemouth lifted the trophy at Derby in front of the Sky Sports cameras in 2009 has a team from the Southern Electric Premier League won a tie in the national rounds.

And South Wilts - minus several regulars - will have to pull out all the stops

They are paired against former national t20 champions Wimbledon, a six hit away from Centre Court.

If South Wilts - SEPL winners for the past two seasons under James Hayward, pictured below win, they will play either East Grinstead or Blackheath.

Tomorrow's regional winners will get home advantage in the Area finals with the final at Cardiff's SWALEC Stadium on September 1.



James Havward

Rained-off games on

THE quarter-finals of the Southern Electric T20 Cup

Bashlev Rydal's home game with St Cross Symondians was washed out last Sunday, so the teams will have a

second try tomorrow (3pm).
The winners will visit Havant in the semi-finals next Sunday, August 9.

The Hampshire Academy will play their rain delayed semi-final tie against South Wilts on the Nursery Ground next Sunday - an added attraction for spectators attending the Hampshire Warwickshire LV= Championship match

The two Plate semi-finals are tomorrow, with Ventnor hosting Totton and Eling at Steephill, and Bournemouth travelling to Waterlooville

The final is at Southern Gardens on August 16.



Felix Organ hits out at the Ageas Bowl (LMI Photography)

Organ's superb innings make him one to watch

FELIX Organ's back-to-back centuries against Devon and Somerset have been one of the prime reasons for Hampshire's success in the ECB Under-17 County Championships.

The St Cross Symondians raised top-order bat and off-spin bowler, a first year Academy scholar at the Ageas Bowl, looks a serious prospect, writes Mike Vimpany.

He first came to prominence by leading the Winchester club to the ECB Under-13 club championship title three seasons ago.

Organ, 16, has since moved to Canford and is developing into a fine young cricketer. His 121, alongside a fine un-

beaten century by Havant's Harry Hovey, hauled Hamp-shire out of the mire and to a high-scoring draw with Devon at Totton & Eling last month.

Organ repeated the dose in midweek, scoring 122 at Taunton Vale as Hampshire gained a first-innings victory over Somerset.

But two untimely absentees from the Hampshire Under-17 side next week - when Ben Duggan and the holidaying Ben Caldera will be missing - will add extra responsibility on Organ's shoulders when Josh McCoy's side face Wales for a place in two national quarter-finals.

Organ has already broken into Hampshire's 2nd XI this season.

He has played in both the three-day Championship and the one-day Trophy competitions.

And last month he scored a match-winning century for a Hampshire Academy XI against the Australia Women's side in the first of their warm-ups for the Women's

Organ's younger brother Zac is also a very talented spinner playing for Hampshire age-group sides.

HANTS' DOUBLE DREAM

Hampshire Under-17s must beat Wales next week if they are to qualify for the quarter-finals of two prestigious ECB junior age group competitions.

Straight wins over Gloucestershire, Devon and Somerset have put Hampshire into top place in their Royal London 50-over Cup group, but they need to beat Wales on the Ageas Bowl Nursery Ground on Monday, 10.45 to clinch a place in the quarter-finals.

Similarly, they must also defeat the young Welshmen over two days, starting at Basingstoke & North Hants on Tuesday (11am), to reach the last eight of the Under-17 County Championships.

They take a slender one-point lead into the May's Bounty group decider, having beaten Somerset on first innings in their latest Under-17 match at Taunton Vale, where Felix Organ celebrated a second consecutive Championship century.

Organ hit 122, having scored 121 in the previous high scoring drawn match with Devon.

Royal London 50-over Cup results

Hampshire 288-6 (Samuel 57, Hovey 40, Duggan 39, McCoy 31, Mead 30)

Gloucestershire 179 (Palmer 49, Gwynne 3-16) by 109 runs. Hampshire 217 (Goodwin 89, Scriv-

en 32) beat Devon 213 (Pyle 69, Wolf 40, McCoy 3-49, Caldera 3-17) by four



Hampshire Under-17s (caption below)

Hampshire 288-6 (Caldera 52, Organ 50, Came 46*, Duggan 42) beat Somerset 169 (Franklin 4-20) by 119 runs.

Two-day County Championship results

Gloucestershire 210 (McCoy 3-62) and 132-4 (Ellis 67, Gwynne 3-38) lost

Hampshire 300 (Goodwin 138, Mc-

Coy 47, Duggan 48) on first innings. Devon 451-7 (Pyle 241, Lammon-56) drew with Hampshire 445-7 (Hovey 123*, Organ 121, Caldera 54, Scriven 48)

Somerset 233 (Gundry 68, Tompkins 57, McCoy 3-26) and 105-4 (Brain 45*)

Hampshire 283 (Organ 122, McCoy

43, Duggan 38) on first innings.

Hampshire Under-17s: Standing (from left): Dan Scott, Harry Came, Rhodes Franklin, Tom Scriven, Felix Organ, Elijah Samuel. Front: Bobby Dyer, Jake Goodwin, Ben Duggan Josh McCoy, Harry Hovey, Ben Cal33 DAILY ECHO Saturday, August 1, 2015

LOCAL CRICKET

IT'S OAKS' TITLE TO LOSE

It's crunch time in the Hampshire League championship race as Fair Oak's undisputed County Division 1 challenge comes under scrutiny.

The Oaks went into today's visit to Ellingham a comfortable 37 points clear at the top, having won all 12 of their matches so far this season.

But their next two matches – against Hook & Newnham Basics II at Lapstone Park next Saturday, and the August 15 visit to Shrewton – will surely determine the outcome of the title.

Assuming Oaks get the nod from the Hampshire Cricket Board's accreditation gurus, they will take one of the two promotion spots in Premier Division 3 next term.

Shrewton have no accreditation in force, so are ineligible for promotion. If they finish runners-up, as seems likely, whoever finishes third will be eligible for the upgrade.

That's a three-cornered scrap between Ryde, and the second teams of Hook & Newnham Basics and OTs & Romsey.

Only 1.74 points separates the trio on points average with four games left after this weekend's matches.

All three have significant one-off games, but generally speaking have four matches they ought to all win.

The promotion race promises to go to the wire!

Hampshire Cricket League, County Division One run-in:



RIDING HIGH: Shrewton 1st XI (Pic by Dave Cavanagh)

Fair Oak: Ellingham (a), Hook & Newnham Basics II (h), Shrewton (a), Hayling Island (h), Sarisbury Athletic II(a).

Shrewton: Portsmouth & Southsea (h), Locks Heath (a), Fair Oak (h), Fareham & Crofton (a), Ropley (h).

Ryde: Sarisbury Athletic (h), OTs & Romsey II (a), St Cross Symondians III (h), Purbrook (a), New Milton II

Hook & Newnham Basics: Locks Heath (h), Fair Oak (a), Fareham & Crofton (h), Ropley (a), Ellingham (h).

OTs & Romsey: Ventnor II (a), Ryde (h), Portchester (h), Portsmouth & Southsea (h), Locks Heath (a). Shrewton CC picture caption:

Back (from left): Dan Pownall, Stu Cruse, Will Harries, George Plank, Chris Brewer, Will Sleeman, George Clift (umpire)

Front: Matt Anderson-Emm, Kieran McClure, Sam Gillott (captain), Rich Barnett. Dan Bingley.



Fareham & Crofton's Ben Kissane

Locks Heath lifted out of the drop zone for the first time

LOCKS Heath are not prepared to let go their County Division 1 status without a fight.

They followed up a crucial 55-run win at Ropley with an equally important 52-run triumph over Ellingham, writes Mike Vimpany.

It is a result that's taken them out of the bottom two for the first time.

"At one stage we looked marooned, but now we have closed the gap on survival and sucked a few other teams into the danger zone," said captain Jack Paskins.

Jack Levy (46) and James Hughes (42) did the spadework with the bat, while Ellingham shot themselves in the foot by conceding a whopping 66 extras!

Paskins and Mohsin Sabri took three wickets each as Ellingham were dismissed for 160, 52 adrift of Locks Heath's 212-9.

Locks Heath went to Hook today with only winless Hayling Island and Ropley beneath them in the table – and with a host of clubs within their sights.

Hayling Island have lost all 11 match-

es they have played this season, while second-from-bottom Ropley are level with Locks Heath on 138 points from 12 games

Ventnor, fighting relegation on two fronts, went down by 44-runs at Sarisbury Athletic, where Josh Stewart-Hill put in a man-of-the-match performance after contributions with both bat and ball.

The Itchen College student made 60 and shared a key century stand with leading County 1 run-scorer Pete Hammond (88) as Sarisbury posted 271-9.

He then blasted Ventnor 2nd XI's bottom order away with his club best of 5-53 as Ventnor replied with 227 (Jacob Hooneberg 54).

St Cross Symondians III are not far from danger either – Sean Figgins (62) and Kiwi Ben Skilton (5-21) plotting Purbrook's 100-run win at the Green Jackets.

Fareham & Crofton are probably safe after a personal best 93 by Ben Kissane, pictured, underpinned a tenrun win at Burridge.

Fareham held on with 237-9 after Suji Wickramsinghe (43), Jon Green (30) and Dan Dayley-Jones (35) launched a fightback.

Kemp top scores in Oaks' win

FAIR Oak came through a nervy run chase to maintain their position at the top of County One.

The league leaders completed a comfortable three-wicket win over lowly Ropley, whose 214 owed much to Alex Stogdon's 76 of 59 balls.

Andy Mash took a useful 4-40 for Oaks, who looked to be totally in control at 129-1 in reply

in reply.
Tom Hockenhull contributed
41 and Ed Kemp (pictured
below) took time out from his
editing duties at All Out
Cricket magazine to top
score with 65.

Will Gabb (3-34) and James Forrest made inroads as they fell to 163-7.

But in Bradfield College's Charlie Gwynn (30) and Ross Stewart (18) they got across the line with nine balls to spare.



@Ed KempAOC/Twitter

Shrewton dominate

SHREWTON blew Portchester away in less than ten overs after Jamie Mitchell (4-21) and Will Harries (4-13) skittled the Castlemen for a dismal 54.

Second-placed Shrewton lost three cheap wickets on the rain-affected surface, but Rich Barnett (28no) completed the formalities.

Ryde's bid to put County One bonus points on the board was scuppered when their visit to Hayling Island was washed out.

Hook & Newnham Basics nicked second place with a three-wicket win at Portsmouth & Southsea, thanks to Olie May (4-30), Barry Goodman (3-33) and Matt McNally (64).

Fifth-placed OTs & Romsey bowled New Milton II out for 124 and Shaun Vidler (47) guided them to a four-wicket win

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DAILY ECHO Saturday, August 1, 2015

Howe gives Cherries' squad a Premier target

EDDIE Howe has thrown down the gauntlet to his Cherries squad by insisting they still have "every opportunity to impress" in the race for Premier League

Boss Howe is adamant there is everything to play for ahead of the club's final two warm-up matches against Cardiff City (last night) and Bundesliga outfit Hoffenheim (today, 3pm).

Most of the first-team squad played 45 minutes in Cherries' opening two friendlies against Philadelphia Union and Exeter before splitting into two teams for lengthier spells of action at Nantes and Yeovil.

Howe said he was likely to give "as much game time as

possible" to his players in the last two fixtures and urged his squad to crank up the pressure with the big kick-off against As-

ton Villa just nine days away. Quizzed on the prospect of picking that first team, Howe said: "I'm not close at all. We have two massive games this weekend and the lads still have every opportunity to impress and show me they deserve to be in the starting XI.

"Having difficulty in the selec-tion process is definitely what I want so it will be a big weekend for the players. I think we have a good squad and I back everybody to have the right attributes and attitude to be good players, so there have been no surprises.

"The players have a big window to impress during pre-sea-son and then you have the difficult decision to pick a team. It is no different whichever league you are in.

"I know how good the boys are and it is up to them to prove that on the pitch and be consistent in their performances. So far, they have done that."

Goalscorers Junior Stanislas and Joshua King did their respective quests no harm with impressive displays as Cherries eased to a 3-0 win at Yeovil on Tuesday. "The more headaches I have, the better in terms of players performing well and showwhat they're capable of,"



Cherries manager Eddie Howe

Donald delights in his 'kids' playtime'

WHEN news broke last month that Eastleigh chairman Stewart Donald was buying a 10 per cent stake in League Two Oxford United, he likened it to having two children.

You try not to love one more than

the other and try to do your best for both of them," he smiled.

Last Saturday he got the opportunity to see his two "kids" playing together at the Silverlake Stadium.

And although Eastleigh — the club

And although Eastleigh – the club in which he has invested a whopping £3 million of his personal funds – ended up 2-0 losers of the pre-season friendly, Donald looked relaxed and happy at the final whistle.

Asked if it was difficult having divided loyalties, he reflected: "The fact it was a pre-season game allowed me to enjoy it.

"It might be different with a competitive match, but this afternoon I didn't have to worry about the result.

Attachment

"Everyone knows I'm an Oxford fan and I will watch them when I can. But when you work every day, like I do, at Eastleigh and you've been there all week leading up to the game, there's an attachment to the

club and the fans."

Late first-half goals from Johnny Mullins and Danny Hylton settled the issue in the Us' favour and, apart from a bit of argy-bargy between Hylton and Eastleigh skipper Paul Reid that flared up at half time, Donald's two children played very nicely together in what Mullins later de-

scribed as "a proper game".

"I think we did alright against them," said Donald. "It was a good test for the lads to get under their belt and, for a pre-season game, it was quite competitive. It got a big edgy, but not silly, and it was a very



Eastleigh chairman Stewart Donald. Picture by Tony Smith.

good workout."

Given the size of his investment in Eastleigh, Donald is looking for the Spitfires to at least match last season's progress to the Vanarama National League (formerly Conference) play-offs - if not better it.

With the quality of Andy Drury, Lee Cook, Ross Lafayette, Josh Payne and loanee goalkeeper Michael Poke added to the mix, the chairman would like to think they might even be in with a chance of winning it, but he is realistic enough to know

that competition will be strong.

"If you look at the signings we've made, we've possibly made a bit of a step up from where we were before and with one, or maybe two, additions we'll be ready to go," he said.

'We'll get one more player in the building, possibly two but definitely one, before the season starts and if we need to do a bit more business before the transfer window closes we

"We're one of a number of teams trying to win the league and I think

we've got a chance. But then so have Grimsby, Tranmere and a number

There are some good teams in this league and it's going to be hard to win it, but we'll give it a go.

"We've had a year in the league, we've established ourselves and we feel we're ready to kick on.

"On balance, the league is probably the same (strength) as last sea-

"The question is: Are we going to

Plans for Mbemba

NEWCASTLE hope new signing Chancel Mbemba will be granted a work permit in time to start the Premier League season against Saints next

The 20-year-old DR Congo defender was granted governing body endorsement (GBE) at a Football Association panel hearing on Thursday, and now needs just visa clearance to launch his Newcastle career.

Mbemba has become Newcastle's third signing of the summer after making the switch from Anderlecht, with head coach Steve McClaren keen to tie up the remaining paperwork

McClaren said: "We are delighted that Chancel is now a Newcastle United player after it took a little longer than we had hoped.

"He is a proven performer at the highest level, he's powerful, combative and will add quality to our defence. He also has an eve for goal which is an extra asset for us.

"We will get him integrated into the squad quickly once he is with us. Unfortunately, due to the time it takes to process the visa application that won't be in time for our final friendly on Saturday, but our focus will be to make sure he will be ready and available as soon as possible.

"I'm sure our supporters will take to him very quickly."

Newcastle have also splashed out to sign Georginio Wijnaldum and Aleksandar Mitrovic.

Midfielder Wijnaldum, 24, arrived for £14.5m from PSV, while £13m striker Mitrovic, 20, also joined from Anderlecht



Steve McClaren



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